



Restored cross

Medieval preaching site is restored to glory

Page 3



Muscle man

Father is helping others after surviving bike crash

Page 10



Dutch courage

Yeltz' new arrival has to adjust to life in England

Page 36



Victim of stabbing murder is identified

A MAN who was stabbed to death at his home in Halesowen has been named locally as David Carpenter.

Police launched a murder investigation after Mr Carpenter, who is in his 40s, was stabbed during a disturbance at his home in Graham Road on Sunday night.

Police said they arrived at about 9pm to find the door forced open and Mr Carpenter collapsed inside. Despite efforts to revive him, he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Neighbours said he lived at the house with his wife and 13-year-old daughter. The house remains cordoned off with police tape.

At the time of going to press a 49-year-old man arrested on suspicion of murder was in custody.

Another man, aged 28, arrested on suspicion of using violence to secure entry to premises, has been released on bail.

Halesowen sector police Inspector Dez Lambert said: "We have police guarding the house and have officers patrolling the area."

A neighbour, who did not wish to be named, said: "We're all shocked by what happened, nothing like this happens round here."

Tory leader steps down

THE leader of Dudley Council's Tory group has stepped down.

Councillor Les Jones has resigned from a role he has had since replacing former leader Anne Millward in May 2011.

He said there were many reasons for his decision, including personal ones.

Early front-runners to express an interest in the role are deputy group leader, Councillor Tim Wright, and transport spokesman Councillor Patrick Harley.

It follows Tories losing a Stourbridge Town and Wollaston seat to Labour and Co-op Party candidate Barbara Sykes last week.

● Tensions – page 3

COUNCIL TAX IS TO REMAIN FROZEN

by Heather Large

A FREEZE on council tax for Dudley borough residents is due to be approved by council bosses. Dudley Council's cabinet is expected to agree to accept a one-off £2.2million Government grant allowing the authority to freeze council tax for 12 months.

However, the council will have to make savings of £27m over the next three years. Plans already revealed include reducing a range of budgets from street cleaning to some services for children and the elderly. The proposals to freeze council tax follow in the wake of the borough council's Big Question consultation with residents, the biggest in the authority's history.

The findings reveal the borough's residents were almost equally divided on the matter.

Of those who responded, 49 per cent said they wanted council tax rates to remain the same while 51 per cent said they would be willing to pay more to protect council services.

Councillor Pete Lowe, said: "The consultation has been an extremely helpful and high value exercise that has helped inform our decision this year and will help us with budget setting priorities as we move forward. It has indicated just how much Dudley borough residents value their council services."

Trial will see A&E sending cases to GPs

PATIENTS attending the accident and emergency department at Russells Hall Hospital when they do not need to will be sent elsewhere for treatment under a new scheme, health bosses have revealed.

The two-month trial will see patients at the Dudley hospital being sent back to their GP or pharmacist if it is decided their problem is not serious enough for the A&E department.

The move follows the revelation that up to 12 per cent of patients attending A&E did not need hospital treatment and that high demand has forced the hospital to seek extra staff.

Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust Emergency Department consultant, Dr Rajan Paw, explained: "Patients may think hospital is the best place for them, but that is not always the case."

"Patients who attend with minor illnesses prevent doctors and nurses from seeing those patients most in need."

Under the pilot scheme, senior nurses will assess patients on arrival at A&E to decide whether they need urgent treatment.

If not, between 7.30am – 11.30am patients will be redirected to the most appropriate health professional – this could be a GP or pharmacist – or given advice about how to look after themselves.

● Bedsores – page 6

Trainees seeing if they can cut it



New trainee skippers – from left, Roy Powis, Archie Hadley and Phil Butler

NEW recruits are learning the history of the region's waterways as they train up to take the helm of narrowboats at a popular Dudley attraction.

Dudley Canal Trust is training three new skippers to take trip boats out for visitors on canals around the Black Country.

The two-month training regime will see the recruits tackling locks, learning to pilot boats, to dock and taking a detailed history lesson on the role of the waterways. Former

Concerns see £18m village bid cut down

PLANS for an £18 million retirement village on the site of a former school in Cradley have been scaled back amid concerns from residents.

There had been fears the proposed four-storey building would tower over neighbouring properties. But developer Midland Heart has now submitted revised plans for the former Cradley High School site to Dudley Council. They have now designed the complex, which is earmarked for land off Homer Hill Road, to fit on three floors.

Among those who had objected to the original proposals was Councillor Tim Crumpton, who said he was concerned the development would dominate the skyline and look out of place because of the security fencing which would be put around it.

Midland Heart's deputy director of new business and development, Nick Byrne, said: "We are committed to working with the local community throughout any new development, and we have carefully listened to the concerns raised following lengthy public consultation."

"We have worked closely with our partners at Dudley Council to make significant changes to the proposed plans. These include reducing the original four-storey building to three floors."

The development will include 130 apartments and employ more than 40 staff.

Strike vote at college

THE dispute between the union and management at Halesowen College has deepened with the union announcing plans to strike.

University and College Union members have been fighting for the reinstatement of four maths teachers who were sacked.

They have now voted in favour of strike action with 75 per cent of members having voted with 89 per cent of those voting in favour. Halesowen College declined to comment.

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Councillor's fear on college merger

A TORY councillor says a merger plan for Stourbridge College is "deplorable" and could lead to asset-stripping. It is proposed to join Birmingham Metropolitan College. Councillor Liz Walker, criticised the college's proposal, which is open for consultation until February 27. She claimed it should have consulted first about whether there should be any merger – and then considered forming a trust with

local schools, Dudley or Halesowen colleges.

The college says it followed "due process" with Metropolitan identified as the best option – and denies it is in financial trouble.

It also says there is no fear that Birmingham Metropolitan would strip assets and pointed out that, after mergers with other organisations, the city-based college had invested in new facilities. Councillor

Walker said: "A lot of Stourbridge College's land was given by the Feoffes – trustees – of Oldswinford Hospital School and I am concerned that, if there is a merger, Birmingham Metropolitan College could sell off land, including the Longlands site, which would be asset-stripping."

"I understand the need for merger because of the financial difficulties that Stourbridge College is in. The college should have first con-

sulted about the need for a merger and then, if a merger was decided upon, approached local schools about setting up a trust with them or Dudley or Halesowen College."

Principal Lynette Cutting, said the proposed merger followed a thorough options appraisal which looked at all local colleges' financial health as well as potential benefits for students in terms of employer links and job opportunities.

Number of attacks on medics show fall

FEWER ambulance staff are being assaulted at work, latest figures claim.

West Midlands Ambulance Service recorded 95 assaults on its staff between April and October 2012 – an average of almost 14 each month.

This was down from 142 during the same period in the previous year. Chief executive Anthony Marsh said at the organisation's board meeting the figures were a positive sign but the trust was not resting on its laurels.

He added: "While the figures have reduced we are not complacent and will continue to do everything we can to protect our staff."

One of the reasons for the decline in the number of assaults on ambulance staff could be the conflict resolution training introduced at the trust about three years ago, he said.

Last year there were also 186 reports of verbal abuse on staff and 201 "near miss" reports. This is when an ambulance worker fears an assault is imminent but it does not happen. These numbers compared to 302 cases of verbal abuse and 253 near misses in 2011.

Man, 90, hit by lorry dies

A 90-year-old man has died after being hit by a skip lorry.

He was knocked down at the junction of Brierley Hill High Street and Level Street last week.

Police officers alerted to the accident by passers-by tried to save the man with CPR.

He was taken to Russells Hall Hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

The driver of the skip lorry, believed to be in his 50s, was taken to hospital for shock.

Police closed the road for up to four hours, causing queues of traffic to build up around the town.

Police meeting

RESIDENTS in Stourbridge can air their views at a police forum on March 6. It will take place at St Thomas's Church, Market Street and is for people living in the town centre and Wollaston. The meeting will start at 7pm.

Seized catering chicken found with salmonella

CONTAMINATED chicken has been stopped from finding its way into the nation's sandwiches after a crackdown by Dudley Council.

Environmental health officers seized 16,000 bags of chicken in the borough that had been imported from China via Ireland – and discovered three-quarters of the chicken contained salmonella, which can cause food poisoning.

Extension for dentist's surgery has green light

PLANS to extend a dental surgery have been approved. Oakleigh Dental Practice in Spies Lane, Halesowen, applied for a single-storey front extension and two-storey rear extension.

The extension is to allow the surgery to have a larger room for implant surgery and the increased staff needed for that.

The proposal prompted four letters of objection, however.

One of those objectors was from neighbour David Taylor.

He told a meeting of Dudley Council's development control committee he was worried about having the surgery extended.

He added: "The extension would overlook my rear garden."

There had also been a petition against the plans which was signed by 44 residents worried about the lack of car-parking in the area. The surgery has a small parking area with room for up to three cars.

Councillor Colin Wilson said: "I wasn't too happy with the plans to begin with but when I read there will only be two to three patients a day I thought it wouldn't make any difference."

At a hearing last week a district court judge ordered the entire 41 tons of chicken must be destroyed.

At Dudley Magistrates' Court, Richard Essex, for Dudley Council, revealed just how bad the situation could have been.

He said: "Finnish authorities have reported a nasty outbreak in the country and tests show the chicken was from the same batch."

The frozen cooked chicken, worth £104,000, had been produced in China and imported into the UK by food brokers Food-Bridge, based in Ireland.

It was being kept in a cold-store in Dudley and was bound for the catering trade.

Its movement was stopped after council officers were tipped off by Irish authorities.

Swift

They tested the first batch, finding 75 per cent of it contaminated, and tested the second batch finding salmonella in two samples.

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "The swift action taken by environmental health officers has undoubtedly prevented a potentially serious food poisoning outbreak."

District Judge Michael Wheeler ordered the contaminated chicken be destroyed. He also awarded the council £2,440 in costs.

Mr Essex said: "There was no blame attached to those importing the food."

"They just happened to be the unfortunate recipient of this chicken and they weren't the first."

New home is a real belter



Hardeep Johal, and Sensei James Moclair at the Tai Jutsu Kwai Martial Arts Centre

A MARTIAL arts club in Dudley has secured its future after finding a new home.

Tai Jutsu Kwai Martial Arts Centre reopened on the upper floor of Plaza Mall in Dudley last month.

Owner James Moclair made the move after customers were concerned by alleged drug use near the centre's former base in High Street.

Mr Moclair says he has spent £3,000 converting the room space into a martial arts centre.

He said: "I'm delighted – where we are now is 100 per cent better than where we were before, and my users agree."

"Parents of children didn't like the former base and I had to take action to move to secure our future."

"I've been running this place for 18 years, and I hope to continue here another long-term period."

The centre has about 125 members

attending 10 different classes, which include Ju-Jutsu, Kempo Karate, Kids Karate and Ko-Budo.

Mr Moclair, aged 56, has eight martial art grades and has represented England in World Championships, including the World Ju Jutsu Demonstration Championships in 1986, where he won gold. His decision to move the centre has been welcomed by the co-owner of the Plaza Mall.

Tony Swannie said the mini-shopping centre was thriving, and the addition of the martial arts centre would bring a further boost to traders. There are 52 small businesses operating within the centre.

Mr Swannie said: "The martial arts centre coming here is a win-win situation."

"We provide the centre with an adequate space, and it provides the surrounding business with extra footfall."

Anyone wanting to join the martial arts centre should call 07815 676950.

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Meet to drum up support

DUDLEY Hippodrome campaigners are making a fresh plea for support after re-arranging a public meeting previously cancelled due to bad weather.

They want to inspire residents by revealing the business plans they have drawn up showing how the old theatre would play host to the leading lights of the West End stage.

Dozens of photographs have been taken inside the Castle Hill theatre to give people an idea of how it looks now and what work is needed.

The meeting takes place on February 10 at the Station Hotel.

It was previously cancelled at the last minute due to snow on January 20. Dudley Council officials are yet to fix a date for a meeting to hear the planning application to demolish the hippodrome.

But the business plan has been sent for assessment to independent auditors in Hereford. Friends of Dudley Hippodrome spokesman Geoff Fitzpatrick says the group is eager to discover their findings on the document.

The meeting starts at 6.30pm at the hotel on the corner of Trindle Road and Castle Hill.

Boat set to be scrapped

A BOAT-BUILDING project in Dudley is officially over – and the vessel, which had been earmarked for a round-the-world voyage, is now making its way to Italy for scrap.

Adventurer Alan Priddy was forced to abandon his 18-month boat-building project after a fire ripped through the Dudley warehouse where it was being built.

Although the blaze happened last May at the Micklewrights unit in the Thornleigh Trading Estate, Mr Priddy only found out about the extent of the damage towards the end of the year, and decided it would not be safe to continue.

Focus on news

HAGLEY Wives and Women's Fellowship will hear news of the newspapers when Vanessa Morgan gives a talk on February 12.

On February 26, Brian Draper will give an insight into River Severn wildlife. Both talks start at 8pm in St Saviours's Church Hall.

Vice girl guilty of murdering businessman



Emma Bate

A PROSTITUTE and her boyfriend have been found guilty of murdering a former Dudley businessman during a night-time raid on his home.

Emma Bate and Paramjit Singh broke into Richard Sherratt's flat in Bridgnorth in a midnight robbery set up by Bate to fund her drug addiction.

During the break-in, Mr Sherratt, aged 57, who had lived in Kinver and Stourbridge, suffered a total of 38 injuries including five blows to the head,

a stab wound to his arm and wounds on his face and neck.

The property developer died within an hour of the attack and was found the next day semiconscious on his blood-stained bed.

Police said he had been the victim of a "callous and brutal ordeal".

Hours after the murder Bate and Singh were filmed on CCTV embracing and apparently celebrating. At Stafford Crown Court Bate, formerly of Cannock, was found guilty of the

murder of Mr Sherratt in June last year.

Bate, aged 26, of Gladstone Street, Birmingham, denied murder, but admitted robbing Mr Sherratt.

Singh, 33, of Willmore Road, Birmingham, admitted murdering, robbing and defrauding Mr Sherratt.

Bate put her head in her hands as the jury returned its verdict. As she was led away she looked and smirked at Mr Sherratt's 24-year-old daughter

Jennie, who had been a witness.

Judge Simon Tonking said: "I am bound to be sentencing both these defendants to life imprisonment." They will be sentenced on March 1.

A third person, Michael Smith, 51, of Horton Street, Tipton, drove the pair to and from Mr Sherratt's home in Old School Mews. He denied robbery and was found not guilty.

As the guilty verdict was read out Jennie had grasped hands with her brother Joseph, 28.



Richard Sherratt

Tory leader steps down as tensions grow in the party

DUDLEY'S former council leader Councillor Les Jones has resigned as Conservative leader amid growing tensions within the party.

Councillor Jones said there were personal reasons for his decision to quit as Tory leader, but he said there were suggestions he had been "failing" in his duties so had decided to go for the sake of party unity. The Conservative group suffered

by Andrew Turton

smaller sections of our Conservative group that I was failing in my role as leader," he said.

"It has impacted on the way that we fought the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town by-election. Therefore I've taken my decision in the interests of party unity."

"I had made by decision four or five weeks ago before the by-election and hadn't wanted it to get in the way of the campaign," he said.

He refuted accusations that his leadership was failing, adding: "I think that I was an effective and hard working leader."

"I brought a lot of commonsense to the way the council performed and the savings made to protect frontline services."

Councillor Jones said he was "sad" to step down but was proud of his role, citing key regeneration schemes including Stourbridge's Crown Centre among examples of his achievements.



Councillor Les Jones

ferred the blow of losing last week's council by-election, failing to hold on to the seat of long-standing councillor Malcolm Knowles who died last year.

Dudley Council is already controlled by Labour after the Tory majority collapsed at last May's elections.

Councillor Jones said there were conflicting arguments within the group over their direction in the wake of crucial budget proposals by Labour, including a potential council tax rise.

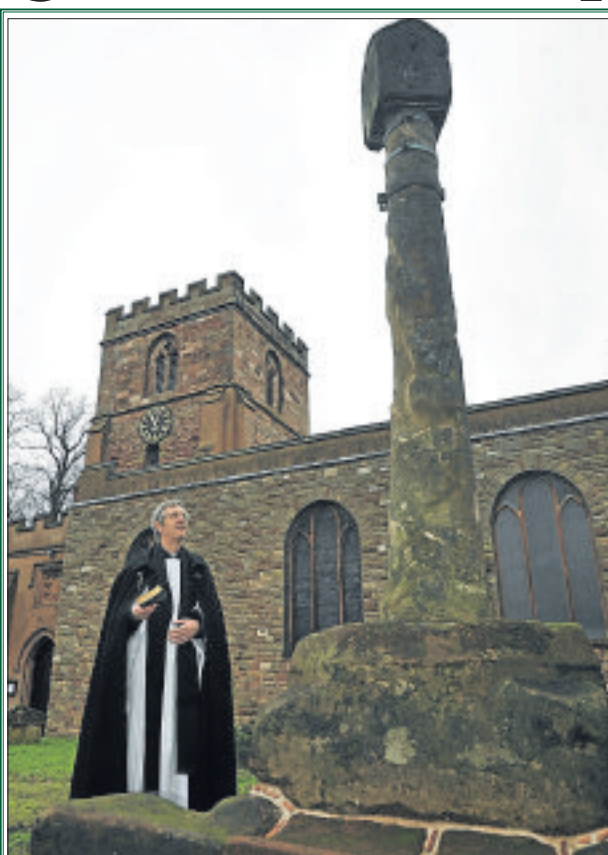
"In recent months there has been a lot of noise from

Wilko wants to help

A DUDLEY store wants local community groups and charities to bid for cash or materials for their projects.

Groups can apply to Wilkinson's in High Street for help with projects such as support for young people, families or the elderly. They can ask for a cash donation or the firm's products – or team members from the store can roll up their sleeves to help neighbourhood developments.

Application forms can be collected from the store and once completed, forms should be returned to the help desk.



Rev Giles Kendall and the preaching cross at St Mary's

Ancient preaching cross is restored

A MEDIEVAL preaching cross has been restored in a £12,000 church project.

The 20ft-high cross which stands in the grounds of St Mary's in Kingswinford dates to around 1340.

English Heritage awarded a cash grant to pay for the extensive restoration work, which was carried out by stonemason Brad Steele.

The preaching crosses often pre-dated the churches and were used by travelling preachers.

They were used as a focal where people could gather and listen to sermons or the gospels in the open air.

The cross at St Mary's is rumoured to have also been the site where sentences were announced for guilty criminals tried at the nearby court house, which still stands but is now a restaurant.

Churchwarden Bob Green, said: "The church is delighted that one of the oldest monuments in Kingswinford has been saved for future generations."

NEWS in brief

Home facing big fine over death

A CARE home faces a hefty fine after a 91-year-old dementia sufferer died when she went missing from the facility.

Hilda Fairweather, who was from Kidderminster, died from hypothermia after walking out of the Abele View care home in Iwerley, near Stourbridge, in January 2009.

At Stafford Crown Court, Mr Paul Russell QC appeared on behalf of the home for a hearing to set a date for sentencing of the firm. It will be after April 29.

Dragons' Den for business students

BUSINESS students will be thrown straight into the 'Dragons' Den' with the launch of a new enterprise academy bearing the name of the programme's star Peter Jones.

Dudley College is celebrating after being chosen to host one of 36 Peter Jones Enterprise Academies. The idea is the brainchild of the Dragons' star, who launched the first accredited course for teaching enterprise and entrepreneurship to students. The course is due to start in September.

Centre staging Farm Boy show

NETHERTON Arts Centre is hosting a production of Farm Boy, by award-winning former Children's Laureate Michael Morpurgo.

Two performances will take place on February 26 at Netherton Arts Centre, Northfield Road. A general public performance will take place at 4.30pm and a school-group-only session is scheduled for 1.30pm.

Beauty salon bid is given approval

PLANS for a beauty and tanning salon in Brierley Hill have been approved.

Diane Breze, of Bronz Bodz, had lodged an application for a change of use for the second and third floors of a property with Dudley Council. Planning officers have given the scheme the go-ahead. The business will be open from 9.30am to 9pm.

Charity shop plea

A CHARITY shop in Kidderminster is looking for donations and volunteers.

Sense is asking people to bring unwanted furniture and electrical goods to its Coventry Street store.

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NEWS

THE BEST
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RHODES

THE INTERNET is a great blessing but, like all great technological leaps forward it brings its fair share of crooks. Home Office minister Jeremy Browne claims that cyber-crime, coupled with mass immigration, has created an estimated 7,500 crime gangs. Some days it feels like more, doesn't it? A tidal wave of casual crime has crept up on us from nowhere. There was a time, not so long ago, when the average law-abiding British citizen might encounter a common once or possibly twice in a lifetime. Now, the phone rings three or four times a day with dodgy offers from criminals who want to take your money off you.

□□□□□□□□

A READER has been bending my ear on the subject of what was once called gay marriage, then same-sex marriage and now appears to be known as "equal marriage." He declares zealously: "The people who oppose equal marriage hold rather a low opinion of some of their fellow humans." In other words, the only possible reason for opposing it is that you hate gays. Quite how he squares this with the views of many gays who oppose equal marriage is not explained. But for the record, the latest thinking from Government lawyers in Whitehall is that equal marriage will require no act of consummation, and adultery will not be grounds for divorce – unless the adultery is with someone of the opposite sex. In what way is that equal? In what way is that marriage?

□□□□□□□□

HUNDREDS of British troops are going to help out our old friends the French with their post-imperial troubles in Mali. Do not take comfort from Mr Cameron's pledge that our troops will be trainers, not fighters.

Most British deaths in Afghanistan over the past two years have been "green-on-blue" killings by the very Afghan soldiers and police we are supposed to be training.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Modest tram driver Phil shuns being called hero

A TRAM train driver has shunned being called a hero for averting a possible crash after a tree fell on to the track in Stourbridge as ferocious winds battered the region.

Phil Tonks was driving the Stourbridge Shuttle service from the Junction to the Town stations and managed to draw to a halt when he saw a 30ft tall tree had crashed down and was blocking the track ahead.

Flu jabs available

FLU jabs are still available for elderly and 'at risk' patients, health experts say. Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group is urging people to take up the offer of being vaccinated.

The free jab is offered every winter to everyone aged 65 and over, children and adults under 65 with certain medical conditions and all pregnant women.

Doctors said while the majority of older people in Dudley have had flu vaccine, there are still some under 65s with long-term conditions, such as heart or breathing problems, and pregnant women who have yet to have theirs. The vaccine takes around 10 days to start working.

Dr David Hegarty said: "Flu is much more serious than getting a cold, and the effects of seasonal flu are often underestimated."

Contact your GP if you think you are eligible.

One of the dozen passengers on board tweeted later: "I should report to twitter lives were saved today by heroic train driver Phil Tonks when the Stourbridge Shuttle track was blocked by a tree".

Modest Mr Tonks, who has been a train driver for just over a year, said: "That's a bit of an exaggeration because we were only going at 10 to 15mph – we were hardly hurtling down on a main line."

"We stopped in good time and a colleague and I were able to lift the tree off the track because it had smashed into pieces when it landed, so wasn't that heavy."

"The whole thing took a couple of minutes and we were on our way again in about four minutes."

Mr Tonks, of Chapel Street, Wordsley, is also a DJ for the local Bridge radio station.

Gym raises cash for little Kelli



Unique Fitness, has raised money for Kelli Smith who needs specialist treatment. With Kelli is grandmother Carole Smith, aged 53, and managers: Raj Kaur, 44 and Jas Kaur, 22

A DUDLEY gym has raised more than £400 for a youngster with cancer.

Unique Fitness held an event to raise funds for Kelli Smith. The four-year-old has neuroblastoma and is battling three new tumours in her abdomen.

After a gruelling session of chemotherapy, Kelli's family thought her cancer had gone. She has now unfortunately relapsed.

The Wellington Road gym's spokesman Jas Kaur said: "There is no treatment protocol in the UK for relapsed neuroblastoma. However, there are options abroad, which will cost in excess of £500,000."

Kelli, who lives in Sutton Coldfield, attracted the interest of the gym's staff after one of them mentioned knowing Kelli's family.

A ladies' night last year raised £460 and this was presented to the family.

Miss Kaur said: "We love helping out."

Views on revamp are to be published

THE results of a consultation on plans to revamp a Dudley town will be published in the spring.

Dudley Council wants to improve the Windmill Hill area of Cradley to help attract more shoppers.

Residents were asked for their views on the proposals which include new benches, public artwork and bus shelters in the summer.

The feedback will be published in a report going before councillors in the coming months.

It will be used to form funding bids to cover the cost of the work later in the year.

Councillor Shaikat Ali, said: "We have been talking to the community including schools about potential improvements for Cradley and Windmill Hill which could be worked up into projects to make the area greener."

"We will be bringing feedback from those who have responded together for a report in the spring."

Cash from quiz

A QUIZ at Clent, near Stourbridge, raised £385 for the Multiple Sclerosis Trust.

Helen Beasley, from Romsley, near Halesowen, whose sister, Jane Dunham, of Wolverley, has MS, is raising money as part of her 50th birthday celebrations.

She organised the quiz, held at the French Hen in Clent.

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Scheme for £2.1m flats is unveiled

A £2.1 MILLION project to build apartments for adults with learning disabilities in Dudley has been unveiled.

Council bosses have earmarked land in Sedgley and Wollaston for the housing developments.

The council is now applying for £385,000 from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to complete the cost of funding the schemes.

It was revealed in a report by Dudley Council leader David Sparks and Councillor Khurshid Ahmed.

The authority wants to create six supported apartments, helping people with learning disabilities to live independently, and three general needs houses at The Walk, Sedgley.

It is also proposing eight supported apartments in Norfolk Road, Wollaston.

The report says: "There remains considerable demand for appropriate homes where people with learning disabilities can live independently with support. "The bid will provide additional affordable housing, particularly in areas where there is a shortage of appropriate dwellings. It will also contribute towards regeneration and the use of infill land which is currently vacant."

Hotel changing

A HOTEL will be converted into a house, after plans were approved by Dudley Council. Victory Outreach UK has received permission to revamp The Hawthorns Hotel in The Hayes, Lye.

Borough's foster care must be improved, say inspectors

FOSTER care services in Dudley are only meeting minimum standards, according to a new report which has led to inspectors ordering a series of improvements.

Ofsted inspectors have rated services as "adequate" and stated foster parents needed more training from Dudley Council. The inspection report also highlighted concerns on levels of staff sickness which "has led to difficulties in completing some fostering tasks". Councillor Tim Crumpton responded to the report. He said the authority would address all issues raised during the inspection. Inspectors Suzanne

Cars creating air pollution

POLLUTION from queuing cars on roads in Dudley is still the main challenge to air quality in the borough, a report claims.

Officials say they are doing all they can to tackle the issue and have improved monitoring levels over the past 12 months.

Air quality will be tested at the Burnt Tree junction, thanks to equipment funded by Tesco after it built its new superstore. The A491 through Amblecote, Wordsley and Kingswinford will continue to be a focus for checks.

And a station near Windmill Hill and Colley Gate in Cradley is analysing air quality after the area was identified as a pollution hotspot. Councillors will debate the air quality report at Dudley Council's environment scrutiny committee tonight.

Environment director John Millar, in the report, said the authority is exceeding levels of nitrogen dioxide at a number of roadside locations in the borough.

"The major source of pollution in these areas has been identified as road traffic," he added.

Young and Dawn Bennett called for improvements to be made to training for foster carers and members of the fostering household, recruitment and documentation to children.

"The fostering service provides an adequate quality of care for children and young people," the report states.

"The management team is focused on improving and developing the fostering provision.

"They understand the strengths and weaknesses of the service and have a clear awareness of the direction of travel required to further improve the service.

"Foster carers are generally satisfied with the fostering service, although staff sickness has led to difficulties in completing some fostering tasks.

"As a result some foster carers have been unhappy with the service they have received.

"Staff sickness within the authority has also meant that it is only recently that all looked-after children and young people have been allocated a social worker."

Dudley has 256 approved foster carers with 565 children and young people in care across the borough.

Councillor Crumpton said: "We are, in the round, pleased with the report and the praise from inspectors for our education standards and the positive relationships between young people and foster carers."

Holocaust survivors on visits



Holocaust survivor Lia Lesser with pupils at Belle Vue Primary School, Tom Jansco, Amber McDonald, Adam Maitland and Abbi Davies

HOLOCAUST survivors visited schools and colleges in Dudley to remember and honour the millions who died as a result of genocide.

Among the guests was survivor Lia Lesser who was given a warm welcome by pupils in Wordsley. Mrs Lesser, of Birmingham, talked to Year 6 children at Belle Vue Primary School about her experiences.

The school's deputy head Claire Davies said: "She spoke about her life and how the Holocaust affected her family."

A service organised at Dudley College by MP Ian Austin and the Students' Union was attended by another survivor Eva Clarke.

Mrs Clarke was born in the Mauthausen Concentration Camp three days before it was liberated by allied troops. Although she and her mother survived, over the course of the war 15 members of her family died.

Mr Austin said: "This event was about remembering those who died and also thanking those local heroes, such as Frank Foley and the many other war veterans whom I have met."

NEWS in brief

Developer's plan for flats rejected

PLANS to convert a former 19th century glass maker's home in the heart of Dudley into flats have been refused by heritage chiefs who feared too many historical features would be removed.

An application for alterations has been lodged for the Grade II listed terrace in Wolverhampton Street.

In a report, he said there was no objection to the property becoming housing, but the authority could not support the proposed alterations. The developer wanted to create five flats.

Jobseeker claims showing a drop

THE number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the Dudley borough fell again last month.

The total was down by 52 to 10,064, or 5.2 per cent of the borough's working population.

In Wyre Forest there was also a fall of 26 to 2,188 (3.6 per cent) and South Staffordshire was down by 11 to 1,646 (2.4 per cent). For the West Midlands as a whole, the total fell by 1,604.

Philosophy talks

FREE philosophy talks are taking place at Halesowen Library in the Shenstone Theatre on Level 7 of the library between 5.45pm and 6.45pm.

The talks are on March 27, May 29, July 31, September 25 and November 27.

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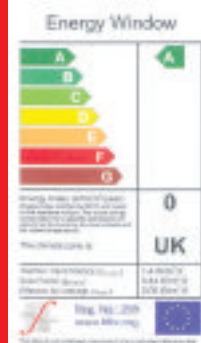
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LETTERS

Beware of wishy, washy promise

TO those seriously gullible people who were hoping for the chance to vote on whether or not this country should remain part of the European Union dictatorship and who are now rejoicing at the prospect of an in/out referendum promised by David Cameron, I would urge them to look at the facts.

Believe it when they see it and ask the question: "Who will be allowed to vote?"

If it happens at all (and we all know what's happened to previous referendum promises), David Cameron's refer-

endum will not happen for at least another four years.

And even then, it's dependent on a Conservative Government, led by Cameron himself, being elected outright in 2015.

At the moment, the daunting prospect of another New Labour Government and Ed Miliband as Prime Minister, looks on the cards for 2015, especially as the Liberal Democrats are facing total annihilation following their betrayal of their own supporters and the British electorate generally.

And New Labour are not offering a referendum. In the meantime, on January 1 next year, the UK will be opening its door to people from two of the most deprived countries in Europe, when 29 million from Romania and Bulgaria will be entitled to come here.

And no wishy, washy promises from David Cameron about what might happen in four years time, is going to stop that happening!

MR R A SARGEANT
Corporation Road
Dudley

Russells Hall staff should be praised

I HAVE to say my experience of a stay in Russells Hall Hospital was not like the ones that have been you printed.

It was cleaned several times a day walls floors doors toilet sinks the lot.

I don't think we realise how lucky we are to have a first class service at the point it's needed.

There will always be the exception where things go wrong, when there are so many people to see and sort out.

I went in through accident and emergency, so saw the staff working all-out to help and relieve peoples ailments.

But some cases should have gone to a walk-in centre not A&E.

It's time to congratulate our hospital not keep kicking it down.

ELAINE TAYLOR
Northfield Road
Netherton

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53
Queen Street, Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Good job rescuer ignored EU edict

WHAT a wonderful story in the news recently, telling of how six-month-old Sam Stevens was rescued from the freezing sea at Watchet, Somerset, by the quick reactions of 63-year-old harbour-master George Reeder, who, in the words of the boy's father, came out of nowhere without hesitation and dived in to save the little boy.

Fortunately, Mr Reeder had not read the EU health and safety edict that forbids anyone from attempting to rescue anyone from water if it is more than ankle deep.

This unfortunately occurred in Gosport some months ago when a so-called specialist team of emergency rescue firemen were called to rescue a 41-year-old man who was lying face down in a few inches of water, sadly they stood by the EU directive and the poor man died.

What a pity that there aren't a few more George Reeders around and a few less preposterous EU health and safety regulations.

B PARSONS
Millard Road
Coseley

Prostate test was received gratefully

HAVING seen an advertisement about a free prostate test and a chat to a consultant at St Thomas Hall, Stourbridge, for the 45 years and over, I decided to make an appointment.

When I attended with my wife we were treated with the upmost professional attention. We would like to thank Mr David Baxter-Smith and all of his staff for the time that they had given to me and many others on the day.

There was no charge as this is a charitable trust but a donation is optional.

Hopefully, if they generate enough funds, they will be back in April and carry on with this good work. Once again, many thanks to the Graham Fulford Trust for raising prostate awareness.

By the way, I was lucky enough to get a green PSA result.

MR P COPE
Longboat Lane
Wordsley



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NEWS

£8,700 bill for the big question over rise in tax

A PUBLIC consultation by Dudley Council asking if residents would accept a two per cent increase or above in council tax will cost taxpayers up to £8,700.

Opposition councillors say big budget decisions may be taken before consultation—dubbed The Big Question—ends. The council say consultation will be paid for out of savings by axing payments made to councillors on now defunct area committees. Five area committees will become nine smaller community forum groups starting next month.

The council says it will save £8,783 in a move to cover "all the costs of a consultation" launched at the end of November after funding pressures on services.

A cabinet meeting on February 12 looking at spending for the next 12 months takes place more than two weeks before consultation ends on February 28.

Tory finance spokesman, Councillor David Blood, in a letter to the press, said it was "alarming" that the meeting was on February 12 but paperwork for it will have been prepared at least 10 working days prior.

"It would appear this whole exercise has been ill-thought-out, a waste of many thousands of pounds of resident's money and a complete sham," he said.

Council finance boss Councillor Pete Lowe said they had a firm commitment to carry out a meaningful consultation and results would help ensure decision making took into account views of the people.

Visit www.dudley.gov.uk

New dance classes at hotel

A DUDLEY hotel is holding a new series of dance classes every Sunday night.

The ballroom dancing sessions will be held weekly between 2.30pm and 5pm at the Station Hotel, Castle Hill.

Sessions cost £2.50 and feature singers with ballroom and sequence dancing. For details on sessions call 01384 253418.

Major drama at museum



The cast of *Dancing on the Edge* film at the Black Country Living Museum

TWO of the region's leading tourist attractions will feature in an major television drama series.

Leading actors were film on location at Dudley's Black Country Living Museum and the Severn Valley Railway. Both of which feature in the BBC 2 period drama *Dancing on the Edge* led by Hollywood star John Goodman who has been in major hits such as *The Big Lebowski* and *Oh Brother Where Art Thou?* and was the voice of Sully from Disney/Pixar's massive hit *Monsters Inc.*



John Goodman

Thou? and was the voice of Sully from Disney/Pixar's massive hit *Monsters Inc.* Bosses said they hoped the programme would lead to more production companies seeking to use the

attractions for filming high-profile shows.

The drama tells the story of a group of black, jazz musicians, the Louis Lester Band, as they find fame among the parties of London's high society. Writer and director Stephen Poliakoff takes the helm of the lavish production.

The all-star cast includes Jacqueline Bisset, Joanna Vanderham, Angel Coulby, Mel Smith, Anthony Head, Caroline Quentin and Jane Asher.

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NEWS

Scout hut reopened



Mayoress Michelle Mottram, Mayor Melvyn Mottram, with Alex Gardner, aged 13, Sam Bradley, 10, Georgia Hemming, nine, and Will Bradley, seven, and group scout leader Eric Watson at the opening of the hut

SCOUT and Guide leaders from past and present celebrated the reopening of a hut in Stourbridge after £170,000 of work.

The 15th Stourbridge Scouts and Norton Guides' moved to the building in Kempton Way, Norton in 1972.

Past and current leaders tied reef knots to symbolise the branch's strength and Dudley Mayor Melvyn Mottram officially opened the base - also available for community use.

The scout and guide group has more than 100 members and uses the base four nights a week. As work was done the group used a scout hut in South Road, Stourbridge.

The scout hut was bought originally bought from Dudley Zoo for £3,000.

Pair forged documents in £22,000 fraud case

A COUPLE pocketed almost £22,000 in a "breathtaking" two-year benefits fraud at a string of different addresses and which involved forged documents, a court was told.

by John Scott

Jade Brown, aged 25, and 26-year-old David Stone forged documents and repeatedly lied that they were not living together despite having two children, one of whom was born during the scam.

They claimed housing and council tax relief, income support and job seekers allowance, even though he was in regular work, the court heard on Wednesday.

In 2008 the couple, who had lived together since 2006, moved from Henry Price House, Oldbury, to Wales after he got a new job, said prosecutor Mark Jackson.

Brown and Stone, who was an assistant manager with Marriott Hotels in Swansea, continued the fraud following their move to a nearby house and persisted, following another job switch, when they moved to South Bank Road, Cradley Heath. They forged tenancy agreements to make it seem Brown was living alone and she said in a conversation

with benefits staff she did not know Stone.

Meanwhile, she had shown off their newborn daughter to his workmates and bragged on Facebook about them being engaged for years.

She also told benefits officers not to worry about state payouts covering only £100 of their £150-a-week rent, because she would have no trouble making up the shortfall.

Brown and Stone, who started work as a school caretaker after losing his hotel job following the discovery of the fiddle, admitted benefits fraud. Their home is now in Wells Road, Brierley Hill.

Each was jailed for 12 months but Brown's sentence was suspended under supervision for 18 months, with 180 hours unpaid work, by Judge Michael Challinor, who told her: "The degree of deception used by both of you was breathtaking."

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NEWS

Help offer for tenants to downsize

DUDLEY Council tenants who want to downsize their home are being offered help with a move.

The scheme is aimed at single tenants and couples who are of pensionable age.

Anyone who decides they are living in a property which is now too large for their needs can apply.

The decision to apply could result from a change in circumstances such as children leaving home, relationship breakdowns or bereavements.

Many tenants choose to move to something smaller to help reduce bills, upkeep and maintenance.

Many older tenants transfer into sheltered or Extra Care housing accommodation, where they can remain independent, but have help at hand, should they need it.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "By moving from a four-bedroom house to a one-bedroom property tenants could reduce their bills by up to £2,000 a year."

Councillor hits at short cut bid

A RADICAL shake-up of policing that would allow new starters to skip the compulsory two years on the beat would not be "helpful" for the West Midlands, the region's Police and Crime Commissioner has said.

Wolverhampton councillor Bob Jones said there were no short cuts for police officers, and experience and training were crucial.

Tributes to dance teacher who ran Adelphi Studios

A fit physique helped Paul to survive crash

A CHAMPION bodybuilder who almost died in a horrific motorcycle crash is giving residents in Halesowen the chance to shape up this month.

Paul Nicholls, aged 40, from Lutley, runs the Workoutz gym in Grammar School Lane with his wife Tracey and will be offering free fitness classes and personal training throughout February.

After being involved in a motorcycle accident in 2008, Mr Nicholls wants to share his story with others and let them know how important keeping fit is.

He suffered life-threatening injuries including a brain haemorrhage, damaged lungs, and broken bones in the smash. Doctors told him he only survived because of his physical strength and fitness.

He said: "At the time no one thought I would live let alone get back to my peak physical fitness, but the doctors said my strength and muscle certainly helped my body recover and protected me."

"Now Tracey and I want to encourage others to get fit and while I am sure they won't face the horror I did, I do want them to know that keeping fit is vital for everyone in staying well and in some cases keeping us alive."

To book a free session or for more information call 0121 550 0440 or visit www.work-outz.co.uk



Like father like son bodybuilder Paul Nicholls with Roman

TRIBUTES have been paid to a popular dance teacher who taught hundreds of pupils in Blackheath during a career that spanned decades. Dorothy Woodall, who started the Adelphi Dance Studios, died after a short illness aged 92.

Ms Woodall, who was brought up on Greenhill Road in Halesowen with her brother Donald, started to dance as a child.

Her mother Nora was a pianist, and she learned stage and tap dancing before going on to learn ballroom.

She then started to teach and from the age of 14 would hold dance lessons in the living room of the family home.

It was thought to be this that prompted her parents to buy the derelict old skating ring on New Street in West Bromwich and transform it into the Adelphi Ballroom, which had a capacity for 1,000 people.

Mrs Woodall's sister-in-law June Darby said: "Many famous artists and bands would play there, it was a wonderful place."

The Adelphi ballroom burned to the ground 25 years after it was opened, and is now an office block.

While Ms Woodall would dance and teach, her brother Donald would play the saxophone and clarinet. It was



Dorothy Woodall

when Ms Woodall was in her 40s that she set up the Adelphi Dance Studio on Beaumont Road, with her then husband Harry Hipkiss. She later married Frank Woodall.

Ms Woodall of Kent Road, Halesowen continued to teach until she retired at the age of 81.

Her funeral was held at Rowley Regis Crematorium, Powke Lane on Tuesday.

'Grot spot' site to be cleaned up

ACTION to clean up a disused Blackheath pub described as a "grot spot" after standing empty for years is finally in the pipeline, it has emerged.

The Wharf, Grange Road, is among a number of eyesore properties targeted as part of a scheme to improve the area.

Sandwell Council is limited in the action it can take to ensure the site is clean up and properly maintained as it is privately owned.

But councillors said talks were now under way between officers and developers for the site. An on-site meeting will be held soon.

Councillor Barbara Price, lead member for Rowley Regis town, said: "Things are now moving forward quickly. Discussions are taking place between the council and developers."

"At the moment a meeting has been arranged where both groups will meet on site and look at ways any future improvements can be moved forward."

Outline plans for demolition of the building to make way for 38 homes and garages were approved in 2009 but no work was carried out. A campaign is under way to tidy up "grot spots" sites in the area.

Cancer open day

CANCER Support at the White House, Dudley will hold open day for the public on March 11 from 10.30am until 1pm.

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NEWS

College graded good



Ashleigh Hipwood, Katherine Murray, Chris Cattell, David Faulkner, Eve Haddow, Gill Coldicott, Lucy Skidmore, Chloe Henderson, Alix Eccles and James Cox

STOURBRIDGE College has been given a good rating by government inspectors and praised for contributing to the local economic regeneration.

Lead Ofsted inspector Anne Taylor said in her report that its success rates on college-based courses had surpassed the national average.

She also found students on work place-based courses made "very good progress". While ICT for users and foundation English courses were in need of improvement.

The report further stated: "The principal, her senior management team and governors have collaborated effectively to produce a strategic plan and objectives which are an accurate reflection of the college's mission."

College principal Lynette Cutting said: "This is really exciting news considering our proposals to merge with Birmingham Metropolitan College, which will see further investment in our facilities along with increased work experience."

People are kept out of the loop on home, claim

CALLS for elderly residents to have their say on the future of a care home in the Black Country have been made as a report into services is compiled.

More than 5,000 people signed a petition opposing proposals to shut New Bradley Hall in Kingswinford, and dozens rallied to attend public meetings on the issue. Then, last April, Dudley Council dropped the plans and said the Compton Drive home would remain open to existing residents and offer short-term respite care for them.

Council bosses launched a wide-ranging review into adult services to coincide with the Government's white paper on social care.

Campaigners had been promised regular updates on the review to allow them to be part of the decision-making process.

But campaigner Mac Scott MBE says they had been invited to only one meeting last year, and demanded more talks.

"We had been promised we would be part of this stakeholder group but so far we have barely heard anything and only had a meeting," he said.

"All we ask is that we are told what is going on and are kept informed."

Councillor Steve Waltho

by Andrew Turton

said the future of New Bradley Hall is part of the review in the wake of pressure from funding cuts.

A range of "costed options" will be drawn up for the care home before a report comes back to councillors in the summer, he added.

Councillor Waltho said a further stakeholder meeting with campaigners was planned during the next two months.

"We have to consider services for the whole of the borough's residents, not just New Bradley Hall," he added.

Adult social care in the borough had been moving more towards independent living rather than residential stays within care homes.

Five extra care housing schemes, with separate flats inside a complex, will be built in the borough by 2015.

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NEWS

John's had a lotta bottle but he rounds it up at 67

FOR John Pardoe the job of being a milkman has not always been just about delivering milk.

The 67-year-old has been a friendly face for hundreds of customers during his 36-year career. He has braved all weathers to make his deliveries during the early hours.

Three days a week Mr Pardoe has woken up at 3am in time to get to the main milk depot in Wolverhampton before returning to Wollaston's Kingsway estate where he delivers milk to about 250 customers.

As many of them are elderly, he has always been happy to lend a helping hand or spend time having a chat, knowing he may be their only visitor that day.

He said: "Many of my customers are in their 80s or 90s and you become more than just the milkman."

"I've had one who couldn't turn his heating on so I came in and helped with that and once we had a man who was unconscious on the floor and I was going to try and get in to help him but we had to call the ambulance and wait for them."

Danger

Mr Pardoe even witnessed a man with a gun in the area a few years ago, recalling being in his delivery van when the man lifted his gun up and fired three shots. The police were soon on the scene and Mr Pardoe said he was not in danger as it turned out to be a starter pistol but he said milkmen have been targets for violence in the past.

"I was in the milk float and I saw this man walk up to me. He fired the pistol three times and I saw blue flashes. I was so shocked about what had happened. The police closed the road off but they couldn't find him." When he left school, Mr Pardoe initially became a cabinet maker but struggled to make a living and found himself delivering milk. He said: "I love this job. I don't mind the cold because I love the people and getting to



Milkman John Pardoe, who is retiring from his round on the Kingsway Estate, Wollaston, after 36 years, with his specially engraved milk bottle

know them." During his career, he has seen many changes including the reduction in the number of people having milk delivered. When he started it, he had almost 600 customers but the number has more than halved due to more people choosing to buy milk from supermarkets instead. But he said many, particularly his customers, still wanted their milk delivered as it meant they saw a friendly face. He said many enjoyed just having someone come to the door who was interested in how they were doing. On his final day at work, Mr Pardoe, of Brambling

Walk, Amblecote, was given cards and gifts from well-wishers.

But there is one which has had taken pride of place on his mantelpiece – a milk bottle engraved especially for him by a grateful customer. It was created by Kevin Barry Crystal at a studio at the Ruskin Glass Centre in Wollaston.

Mr Pardoe said: "It's very unusual and has a tiny diamond embedded in the glass. It's a very special gift." Now he has started his retirement, he plans to spend more time with his wife June and their family.

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Thomas Graham



The plaque at the E&S



Thomas Graham

Thomas Graham, whose plaque is outside the Express & Star's head office in Queen Street, Wolverhampton, was born in Dunfermline in 1841. After moving to Wolverhampton he ran a meat curing business, and became a prominent councillor and magistrate before forming the newspaper, which is still owned by the Graham family today.

Sir Henry Newbolt



The Newbolt plaque



Sir Henry Newbolt

Sir Henry Newbolt, honoured with a plaque on the side of Barclay's Bank, Lichfield Street, Bilston, was a poet best remembered for his 1892 work *Vital Lampada*, in which a future soldier learns about the selfless commitment to duty while playing cricket at school. He was the son of the vicar of St Mary's Church, the Rev Henry Francis Newbolt, and his second wife, Emily.

Sir Rowland Hill



Rowland Hill's plaque



Sir Rowland Hill

Sir Rowland Hill is honoured with a plaque in Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton. Born in Kidderminster, he moved to Wolverhampton as a child. He campaigned for a comprehensive reform of the postal system, based on the concept of penny postage and prepayment and is regarded as the creator of the modern postal service.

Benjamin Mander



The Mander plaque



Benjamin Mander

Benjamin Mander, who was born in 1752 and died in 1819, founded a japanning and varnish manufacturing company with his brother John in 1773. The business became one of the leading varnish manufacturers. The company later built the Mander Centre, where his plaque is mounted and the family name is now inextricably linked to the city of Wolverhampton.

Button Gwinnett



The Gwinnett plaque



Button Gwinnett

Button Gwinnett lived in Wolverhampton and married his wife Ann at St Peter's Church in the city in 1757. He later moved to America where he became involved in politics, and was one of the signatories of the US Declaration of Independence. His plaque can be seen in Exchange Street, Wolverhampton.

Society that helps put local history on a plate

SUHAIL Rana is a man with a lot on his plate at the moment. Or more precisely, that should be plates.

As chairman of Wolverhampton Civic Society, he is the ultimate custodian of the 90 blue plaques which adorn various parts of the city, but his work is far from complete.

"At the moment we have got around half a dozen plaques waiting to go up, one of them will be for the Rotary Club of Wolverhampton, that's something in progress, which we are hoping to put up outside the Britannia Hotel."

It seems that while there is a question about the future of the original

by Mark Andrews

blue-plaque scheme in London, Wolverhampton's version of the project, launched by the society's Rudi Herbert in 1983, is in rude health.

Not only are there plenty of sponsors willing to stump up the £500 cost of having a plaque installed, the society has also secured funding for a mobile phone app, which will allow people to access detailed information about the plaques' subjects as they walk around the town.

"There are always quite a few calls for people to be honoured," says Mr Rana. "The sponsorship usually comes from the families or companies concerned." There are now around 90

blue plaques dotted around Wolverhampton which, outside Birmingham, is by far the most popular such scheme around the West Midlands.

"I think the people of Wolverhampton are very proud of their city," says Mr Rana. "It had many famous factories like Sunbeam, and people want to celebrate it."

Express & Star founder Thomas Graham was the first man to be honoured in Wolverhampton, with his plaque on display outside the newspaper's offices in Queen Street. Other luminaries include industrialist Benjamin Mander, and Button Gwinnett who was one of the signatories on the US Declaration of Independence.

Queen Victoria



The visit plaque



Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria's visit to Wolverhampton is remembered with this plaque on the side of the HSBC bank in Queen Square. The Queen came to the town in 1866 to unveil a statue built in memory of her husband Prince Albert. The landmark statue of Prince Albert on horseback can still be seen in Queen Square in the city centre.

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NEWS

Mike given a send off for massive jungle trek

A TRIO of beauty queens helped to wish a charity fundraiser good luck as he set off on a mammoth 150-mile trek.

Mayoral attendant Mike Crannage will walk, run, climb, abseil and swim the equivalent of almost six marathons in Costa Rica.

He started the challenge, in aid of the Mayor's chosen charities, at the weekend.

To wish him well, Mr Crannage was joined by 18-year-old Ruby Bowater, who is Miss Teen Galaxy West Midlands, Kelly Louise Wyke, 24, who is Europe's Miss Perfect West Midlands and 11-year-old Alexia Bates, who is Europe's Perfect Little Miss.

They were helping to promote special t-shirts which have been printed and donated by the Pensnett-based Quality Print in aid of the cause.

People pay £2 for a shirt, which each has a unique number as well as details of Mike's gruelling trip, and is entered into a raffle with some top prizes up for grabs.

Complete

Mr Crannage, 53, will have to complete the distance, from the Pacific coast to the Caribbean Sea, in 10 days.

The money he raises will be donated to Diabetes UK: Stourbridge, Dudley and District Support Group and the Dudley Stroke Association. Mr Crannage said: "The terrain in Costa Rica is very different from anything I have faced before, with a lot of steep hills quickly changing into deep valleys.

"It is hard to know what to expect until I get there, but my training routine has been the same as always."



Mike Crannage with UK Perfect Little Miss Alexia Bates, aged 11, Miss Teen Galaxy West Midlands Ruby Bowater, 18, and Europe's Perfect West Midlands Kelly Wyke, 24

This daily regime involves a 4am wake-up call for a two-hour run of between eight and 15 miles.

Mr Crannage completes his fundraising challenges during annual leave from his job at the council.

He said: "It is amazing how much good work charities do in Dudley borough, and I am happy to contribute in any way I can."

Visit www.mikecrannage.com for more details.

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NEWS

Pregnant women taking up vaccine

MORE than 70 per cent of pregnant women in the West Midlands took advantage of the new whooping cough vaccine in December – 17 per cent higher than the national average.

In Wolverhampton take-up was 100 per cent, with all 179 women having the vaccine. The city was one of only three PCTs in the country to get top marks.

The take-up in Dudley borough was 76 per cent, and it was 61 per cent in Sandwell and Walsall.

The vaccine was introduced last year to quell the rising spate of whooping cough cases in youngsters.

Newborn babies cannot normally be vaccinated until they are two months old, so the temporary programme was launched for pregnant women in October.

The West Midlands was the best-performing area in England with an overall percentage of 72, compared to the national average of 55.

Pleased

But professor David Salisbury, director of immunisation at the Department of Health, said the figure was still not high enough.

"I'm pleased that nationally more than half of pregnant women took up the offer of the whooping cough vaccine in December," he said.

"But I'd urge more women in the West Midlands to get it to protect their baby."

In England in 2012, 14 infants died of the disease.

Water firm in price pledge to customers as bills go up

THE average household water and sewerage bill in England and Wales will increase by 3.5 per cent over the next year, regulator Ofwat has said.

Households will pay an average of £388 from April 2013 to March 2014 – 0.5pc above the rate of inflation.

But Severn Trent claimed that its customers in the West Midlands would continue to have the lowest average combined household water bills in England and Wales over the coming year.

Simon Mullan, the company's credit manager, said: "Any price rise, however small, is unwelcome, but we have worked hard to keep bills as affordable as possible for our customers."

"Our customers will be paying an average of 92 pence a day – that's less than the average cost for a litre of bottled water."

Network

The firm said the rise would help to fund an investment programme of £1.3 million a day, which includes work with Centro to construct the new Midland Metro.

Severn Trent Water will invest £4.2 million to move its water and sewer pipe network as part of a £127 million joint project to bring trams back to Birmingham's city centre.

Ofwat's chief executive Regina Finn explained the rises. She said: "We said they could only increase bills in line with inflation. We understand there is huge pressure on household incomes, and any rise is unwelcome. Inflation is driving these increases."

"We will make sure customers get value for money and if companies fall short in delivering their promises, we will take action," Mrs Finn added.

Regis kicks off tour to take statue plan to fans



Cyrille Regis, with a copy of the Three Degrees Baggies heroes statue, and Ted Etheridge, from the Britannia Inn Sports, where a fundraising tour will start

BAGGIES legend Cyrille Regis has given a thumbs-up to a scale-model of a statue which will soon be standing proudly in West Bromwich town centre.

The former footballer was at the Britannia Inn Sports Bar in Wollaston this week to promote a fundraising tour to raise money for the actual statue, which will feature Regis as well as fellow Baggies stars Laurie Cunningham and Brendon Batson.

They were affectionately known as the Three Degrees and between them paved the way for future black footballers.

Bob Taylor, Tony "Bomber" Brown and Cyrille Regis will begin the fundraising tour at the Britannia Inn Sports Bar on February 20, giving fans the chance to meet their heroes and exchange stories.

Experience

Sculptor Graham Ibbeson is creating the statue while Black Country businessman Jim Cadman is leading the project.

"It's a very humbling experience and I have to thank Jim Cadman and the celebration statue organisation for proposing it," said Regis.

"It's quite surreal, really, but it's going out on tour and I'm looking forward to travelling with it every now and then."

Regis said the actual statue was coming on well.

"I've been down to the foundry in London to see how he's doing things," he said.

"It's great to see the process and I'm looking forward to seeing it fully unveiled."

£157,000 boost for maternity services

A £157,000 cash injection to improve the maternity unit at Walsall Manor will help make patients' stays as "comfortable as possible", say hospital bosses.

The cash has come from a Government grant. It has been earmarked for better en-suite rooms and to provide overnight accommodation for partners.

Nursing and midwifery chief, Karen Palmer, said: "We are extremely pleased to have received this grant which will enable us to make improvements to our maternity services environment."

Partners

"These changes will have a positive impact not only on the women but also partners who will find a number of improvements, making their stay with us as comfortable as possible."

The cash will be used to refurbish nine birthing rooms. This is to allow partners to stay overnight in comfort, along with more privacy for families using the main birthing facilities.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, which runs New Cross Hospital, was given £170,000 for new parent accommodation to be installed in the neo-natal unit.

Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust received £40,000.

The funding was announced by Health Minister Dr Dan Poulter, who said patients would see huge improvements.

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NEWS

A night in memory of murder victim Shane



Iris Richard, front left, and Vicky Butler with supporters at a fundraising event in memory of Shane Watson

THE relatives of a murder victim have praised the locals of Sedgley for pulling together in his memory.

Shane Watson, an avid Wolves fan, was attacked in an alleyway close to his home on July 28. He died later in hospital, aged 23.

His cousin Vicky Butler, aged 31, of Bath Street, was one of the organisers of an event at Sedgley Working Men's Club last week raising money to maintain Mr Watson's headstone.

Miss Butler said about 200 people attended and £659 was raised for the cause.

She added: "The people of Sedgley are absolutely fantastic. The way they have

pulled together and supported us and each other has been amazing. It happened to us but it has affected everybody."

Miss Butler said the family was still taking things "day by day" since Mr Watson's death. She added: "We're a very close family."

More than 50 people attended a candlelight vigil at All Saints Church, Sedgley, in the days after his death.

James Cartwright, 18, of Sandyfields Road, has pleaded guilty to murdering Mr Watson. Co-defendant Shylon Wishart, 19, of North Springfield, denies the same charge.

Scheme for building 30 homes will be realised

FORMER industrial land in Dudley has come a step closer to being transformed into more than 30 homes as plans passed the final hurdle.

Outline proposals had already been approved for development on the former Redhill Works in Prospect Row. But developer Keirse Ryan Limited needed to get permission for the appearance, layout and scale of the new homes as well as landscaping.

by Heather Large

The scheme will include 29 two-bedroom houses and five three-bedroom houses. They would have gardens with small patios.

There will be a car park with 61 spaces for residents and visitors. Trees will be planted around the site.

The two-storey houses will be built in a cul-de-sac layout.

In a report, submitted with the planning application, the developer says: "The proposal will provide new residential accommo-

dation and remove a currently vacant and derelict site. It will have benefits for the appearance of the area as well as providing much needed accommodation suitable for those on lower incomes.

The proposal will provide a mix of two and three bed houses with gardens." One letter of objection to the proposals had been submitted to the council from a nearby firm which was concerned the housing development could restrict its business in the future.

Appeal for hit-and-run witnesses

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a hit-and-run in Wollaston.

At about 6.30pm on January 28, a car apparently hit a motorbike on the A458 Bridgnorth Road, leaving the motorcyclist with minor injuries. The driver did not stop.

Police are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the crash. The motorcyclist suffered a cut to his ankle and was taken to hospital with a suspected broken wrist.

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CLUB NEWS

Subs rise as hire fee increases

WOLLASTON E TOWNSWOMEN

THE first meeting of 2013 was very well attended by 41 members and nine guests.

Chairman Jean Latham, warmly welcomed everyone and wished them a prosperous and healthy new year. She added she was pleased that everyone had enjoyed the Christmas party.

The secretary followed with the correspondence, most of which comprised 'thank you' messages from neighbouring guilds invited to the Christmas party.

The treasurer reported that due to increases in the costs of hiring venues, speakers, etc, subscriptions have to be raised to £27. However, the evening admission fee remains at £1.30.

The secretary requested that annual sub-section reports are submitted in time for the AGM in March.

Speaker for the evening, John Billingham, gave a very informative talk with slides on the subject of 'Images of Worcestershire'. He was given a round of applause and thanked by the chairman.

The competition winners were Janet Hodder and Sue Ward, while raffle prizes went to Barbara Sawyer and Jude Cresswell.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on February 12 at St James Church Hall. Ian Bott will speak on 'Black Country Burials'. The competition involves a photo of a local church.

Donation will prove vital for blind centre



Stephen Lees hands the cheque to Pete Moodie of the Beacon Centre for the Blind

STEPHEN Lees, president for 2012, had great pleasure in presenting on behalf of Probud Club of Wednesfield a cheque for £400, which included his own generous contribution, to Mr Peter Moodie at the group's first meeting in January.

Mr Moodie expressed thanks on behalf of Beacon Centre for the Blind and said the money would go towards the vital services that the centre offers to local people with visual impairment. He followed up with gave a talk and demonstrated helpful items

PROBUS CLUB OF WEDNESFIELD

that can be used in daily lives by people with sight loss. Thanks were expressed by 2013 president Mel Pope with the club's best wishes to Beacon for the future.

For a full list of meetings, which take place on the third Tuesday in the month, and events, contact John on 01902 733230 or David on 01902 631948.

Extra added to charity pot

THERE was a very good response to the competition for a handmade Christmas card or decoration.

December's speaker was Rod Quilter, who spoke of "Remarkable Restraints" a history of corsetry since the turn of the century with

SEDGLEY MORNING TOWNSWOMEN

examples for members to pass around and look at. As bad weather is always a threat in January it was decided to hold a bring and buy sale, which added £50.20 to the charity fund.

Members then enjoyed a Beetle Drive with prizes for winners and losers.

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Time to Care...

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There is a time when most of us will need some sort of care in our daily lives. It is the price that goes with extending our lifespan. The majority of us will benefit from relatives or close friends helping out but for some the only options available are either move out of our home and into a care establishment or pay for care at home. The preference for most of us would be to stay put in our own abode - as the saying goes "there's no place like home". It may not be an age issue, disability and illness can sometimes render day to day living difficult without the help of external assistance.

Stiled Home Services have grown organically from a straight forward home cleaning operation to now providing extensive and individually tailored care packages for people who wish to maintain their independence and quality of life in their own home. Christine and Michelle are the Mother and Daughter combination that have evolved their organisation to a highly reputable and well regarded business in the South Birmingham area.

"We took the first step by extending our cleaning operation to include "Companion" cleaning. This was a result of the feedback we were getting from our staff that

highlighted the need to offer companionship to clients whilst undertaking regular cleaning duties". This was to be the catalyst for the growth that has occurred since 2007.

The whole organisation grew and the experience that both Christine had as an Auxiliary Nurse and Michelle's as a Care Manager were put into practice. The whole emphasis of this business is to give maximum respect to their clients, client's families and friends.

"Our vision was to create a caring organisation that treats people the way we wanted to be treated ourselves. We wanted the staff to become our extended family and the clients the same. People are often very reluctant to admit they need help, they feel they are a burden and many felt that the best way forward was to struggle on alone. What they found was that by delegating some of their daily tasks to us it gave them a consistent routine, a purpose and a return of self-worth that is so often lacking in people who are living alone or at a distance from their relatives.

One important issue is the cost of Home Care which can often be the stumbling block for people considering the service. "Quite often people will qualify for the Attendance Allowance that is available as a Government Benefit (check out www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance)

Michelle pointed out. "Unfortunately up to 80% of people do not know that they are entitled to the Attendance Allowance, many assume that they do not fit the profile but many do. This can make a massive difference as it can pay up to £51.85 per week towards their care costs. One of the first things we do for any new or prospective clients is to guide them through the process".

Caring for an ageing relative is a skilled task. It is made more difficult as memory tends to fade with age and people begin to lose their memories which family members find difficult to cope with. With loss of memory comes loss of self worth. Stiled Home Services Staff are trained specifically to deal this issue. "We can often slow the process down for our clients as we start a Reminiscence Book", says



Michelle. "We record lots of personal information about the client, where they lived, worked, went to school and other important aspects of their life. This helps them keep those memories and more importantly gives our staff key insights into the person they are caring for. This helps to strengthen the bond between the carer and the client"

The most important aspect of releasing relative's time from the care they provide is that they can go back to being the relative. This improves the quality and the length of time they spend with their loved one at a very important part of their life. This can reduce stress all round as the weight of responsibility is shared with Stiled Home Services.

Stiled can provide as little as half an hour a week and upwards. They even undertake night sits for times when clients are unwell or recovering from treatment. "We are flexible in our approach but create routines that our clients become comfortable with. Our staff are the key, they communicate between themselves so that continuity and consistency are not compromised. We do not engage in "call cramming" like some agencies do. We understand our clients sometimes need a bit more time and attention and we allow the staff to pick up on this and deliver the best service we possibly can.

If we were able to arrange our own care now we would undoubtedly ensure we get the best we could. This is the minimum that our loved ones deserve at a time when it counts the most. With Stiled Home Services you can regain peace of mind and improve the quality of the time you have left with your loved ones. Just call for a confidential chat about your circumstances and you'll find the weight being lifted straight away. It's time to care ...

What Their Clients Say....

"From my initial meeting with the owner of the agency everything has been organised in a caring manner. She attended Social Service Meetings so knew from the start exactly what issues would need addressing. As well as providing morning and evening care the staff takes my parents to appointments and does jobs around the house. Stiled's aim was to stop me being the carer so I could become the daughter again. This aim was fulfilled within days of them taking over. I know my parents are cared for. The peace of mind is wonderful.

Elizabeth F (Daughter of clients)

I have an elderly cousin once removed who lives alone, has psychotic depression and for whom I had the power of attorney. I was at my wits end trying to look after her (I live ¾ of an hour away) and liaise with all the relevant services etc. I first booked Stiled Home Services to come in and do her shopping to at least relieve me of that, my relative was frightened of anyone but me coming in. Since then SHS have taken over her personal care and her housework. Her mental state is now better than it has been for years and she looks forward to them coming each day - they are wonderful.

Alison W (Relative)

Friendly, professional staff who visit my mother twice a week (and occasional weekends) whilst I am at work. They help to give peace of mind that my mother is OK and that someone is there for her while I'm away. Someone for her to talk to and can listen with an interest whilst still keeping a confidence, is sometimes just simply of great benefit to her.

Alan P (Son of Client)



WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE NEEDS CARE THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

ABOUT STILED HOME SERVICES

Here at Stiled Home Services our aim is to aid our clients in their own homes to maintain their independence and their feeling of self worth and dignity.

- We offer a fully bespoke home care service which can be tailored to suit all your needs. All our clients have different requirements which is why we are on hand to deal with any situation, from short term to long term.
- Temporary respite care replaces the normal care provided by family members or a friend, giving them a break from the responsibility of providing continual care.
- Short-term care to attend to someone that has been discharged from a hospital and requires care during healing Long-term support and friendship for someone who is beginning to struggle with living by themselves, but who doesn't want to be forced into move to a nursing home.

Personal Care

- Bathing - maintain personal hygiene
- Toilet needs
- Cooking meals
- Mealtime assistance
- Prompt Medication
- Personal appearance to Hair Care

Household tasks

- Housework
- Shopping
- Washing/ironing
- Repairs to clothes
- Collecting pensions, prescriptions
- Paying bills

Movement

- Mobility around the house
- Getting into and out of bed
- Using simple equipment
- Completing tasks outside of the house - shopping etc.
- Activities throughout the day

Social Connection

- Discussion and Chats
- Remaining in touch with friends and family
- Pursuing interests and hobbies
- Keeping pet animals

STILED HOME SERVICES OBJECTIVES

We offer skilled, trustworthy home care to enable people to live in their home as happily as they would normally. All our clients are treated with maximum respect, not just personally but relatives and friends also. Uphold the human and citizenship rights for our clients and those who visit them.

We will always support the decisions of our clients and advise them should this be needed. At the same time, we like to encourage our clients to participate in outings and activities they will certainly enjoy. Confidential approach is always taken and anything our staff are told is strictly kept to themselves



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What's On! Halesowen

Stories to be told at library event

COSELEY Library will welcome Katrice Horsley for a story-telling session on Saturday between 10.30am until 1pm and 2pm until 4pm.

The session will use story-telling and other activities to explore local issue and inspire people of all ages to contribute their ideas for community development in East Cosely.

People who live or work in East Cosely are invited to come along and share their opinions of the area and what they would like to see developed.

Laura to lead cartoon session

ARTIST Laura Howell will lead a cartooning workshop at Stourbridge Library on Saturday from 11.30am until 2pm.

The Beano Cartoon Illustration Workshop is aimed at children aged five or older and their families.

The event is free but booking at the library is recommended.

Tristram's talk

BRIERLEY Hill Library will have a talk by author Geoff Tristram to launch this year's Six Book Challenge on Saturday February 9. Mr Tristram will also talk about his humour writing. Refreshments will be served from midday with the talk to start at 2pm and expected to last about an hour.

Boogie Nights musical will be a feast of 70s nostalgia

JIMMY Osmond, and his brothers Jay and Merrill, will lead a disco-tastic tribute to the 1970s in Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Joining them for the musical Boogie Nights will be Pop Idol and West End star Gareth Gates and, from The X Factor, cheeky Chico, Laura White and soul singing former binman Andy Abraham.

Dream will do nicely for fans



Keith Jack as Joseph

KEITH Jack came a close second in the TV search for a new Joseph, Any Dream Will Do.

But since 2011 he has established himself as a popular leading man in the touring production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd-Webber's Biblical musical.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat returns to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday. Call the box office on 01902 429212.

The jukebox musical will feature Shane Richie Junior in the role of roguish disco fan Roddy, a jack the lad in a provincial British town, a character first played by his father, who helped create the show 15 years ago.

Survive

Gates plays a heart-throb, Abraham a tough soul singer with a liking for Barry White songs, and Chico will be showing his disco dance moves to Le Freak. As Debs, Louisa Lytton (EastEnders, The Bill and Strictly Come Dancing) will belt out such numbers as I Will Survive.

The three Osmond brothers will appear as special guests, and will perform their 70s hits Crazy Horses and Love Me For A Reason.

Boogie Nights is at Wolverhampton Civic Hall (0870 3207000) tonight (Thursday) and tomorrow night (Fri), then will move to Symphony Hall (0121 780333) in Birmingham on Saturday night.



Actress Elizabeth McGovern as Lady Cora in Downton Abbey, left, and fronting her band Sadie and the Hotheads, who are coming to Birmingham and Worcester



Downton's Lady Cora is a rocker

AMERICAN star Elizabeth McGovern is famous for the role of Lady Cora in hit ITV costume drama Downton Abbey but she has another alter-ego, as lead singer and guitarist with rock band Sadie and the Hotheads.

The former Hollywood actress, who married an English director and moved to London in the 1990s, will bring her band to the Adrian Boult Hall in Birmingham tomorrow night (Friday) and to Worcester's Huntingdon Hall on Saturday.

She said: "It's an Americana kind of sound, a mix of country and rock and roll. It's as if I needed to be in London to discover this side of myself."

The Hotheads sometimes also feature guests, which have included her on-screen Downton daughter, actress and singer Michelle Dockery. Tickets cost £21 at Birmingham. Call 0121 3450600.

Best foot forward for weekly walk

THE weekly Wordsley Trail walk is on every Wednesday starting from the main car park at King George V Park, Lawnswood Road.

The free walk begins at 10am with walkers asked to be there 15 minutes before that. The walk lasts about an hour and is led either by Jackie Edwards or a park ranger.

This is a picturesque walk through woodland trails and along canal towpaths, and includes The Buckpool and Fens Pools Nature Reserve.

Sketchbook of art work by Fox

THE Fox Sketchbook is an exhibition celebrating works recently received by Dudley Museum and Art Gallery. The works, by local artist Ernest Fox, include a small sketch book.

Mr Fox was working in Dudley during the 1880s and a highlight of his work shows the view from Castle Hill towards Tipton as it looked at the time. The exhibition runs until March 9 and admission is free.

Choir's requiem

OLD Swinford Hospital Chamber Choir is combining with Redhill Chamber Orchestra to perform Faure's Requiem on Wednesday February 13 at 7.30pm. The concert is at Great Hall at Old Swinford Hospital School and includes works by Bach, Warlock and Avison. Admission is free.

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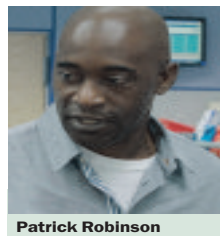


What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 9.02.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Patrick Robinson

Casualty BBC1, 9.10pm
Long-standing Casualty fans probably won't need to be reminded about Martin 'Ash' Ashford, but for newer viewers, he was Charlie's former deputy who worked on the wards of Holby between 1990 and 1998. Since leaving the show, actor Patrick Robinson has regularly cropped up on our screens - his credits include a two-year stint on The Bill - and it turns out his Casualty alter ego has been busy as well, because when Ash rejoins the team this evening, it's as a fully qualified doctor. But how will he feel when he discovers his first patient has a case of rabies?

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Good Cook. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Regional News. Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **3.40** Live Six Nations Rugby Union.
7.00 **BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.
7.20 **Britain's Brightest:** Clare Balding is joined by comedian Bill Bailey as she hosts the final, with the winner claiming the title of Britain's Brightest and a cheque for £50,000. Last in the series.
8.20 **The National Lottery: In It To Win It.** Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws, presented by Scott Mills.
9.10 **Casualty.** Charlie's former nursing deputy Ash, now qualified as a doctor, rejoins the team, and hits the ground running when he treats a patient with suspected rabies.
10.00 **BBC News:** Weather.
10.20 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of today's Premier League clashes, including Swansea City v Queens Park Rangers and Southampton v Manchester City. National Lottery Update.
11.40 **The Football League Show.** Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Bolton Wanderers v Burnley.
12.55 **Weather.** **1.00** News.

BBC2

6.00 Close. **7.10** Great British Menu. (R) **7.40** Great British Menu. (R) **8.10** Great British Menu. (R) **8.40** Great British Menu. (R) **9.10** Great British Menu. (R) **9.40** The Sky at Night. (R) **10.00** A History of Britain by Simon Schama. (R) **11.00** Meet the Ancestors. (R) **11.30** Map Man. (R) **12.00** Indian Food Made Easy. (R) **12.30** Mastermind. (R) **1.00** University Challenge. (R) **1.30** Film: The Taming of the Shrew. (1967) **3.30** The Mary Berry Story. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Ice Age Art: A Culture Show Special.
6.30 **Dad's Army.** Jones's van runs out of petrol and the platoon is forced to spend the night in a spooky deserted house, where the men's imaginations soon run wild. (R)
7.00 **Top Gear.** Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May pilot three front-engined supercars on a road trip from Las Vegas to Palm Springs via Los Angeles. (R)
8.00 **Giant Otters of the Amazon: Natural World.** Cameraman Charlie Hamilton James heads to the Peruvian jungle to chart the dangerous life of a giant otter and its unruly family of six cubs.
9.00 **Howard Goodall's Story of Music.** The composer examines the period between 1750 and 1850, which was the era of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Schumann and Chopin.
10.00 **Dancing on the Edge.** Drama, by Stephen Poliakoff.
11.35 **Film: Milk.** (2008) Biopic of US politician Harvey Milk, starring Sean Penn.
1.35 Close.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Handy Manny. **6.10** Handy Manny. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.15** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.30** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Victorious. (R) **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** Saturday Cookbook. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.20** My Tasty Travels with Lynda Bellingham. **8.30** Dinner Date. (R) **3.25** Film: The Secret of My Success. (1987) **5.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.40** ITV News; Weather.
6.00 **Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang.** (2010) Premiere. A woman struggling to look after her children and the family farm receives a helping hand from the magical nanny. Fantasy comedy, with Emma Thompson.
8.05 **Take Me Out.** A line-dancing instructor, a footballer, a student and a motorsport events manager enter the love life in the hope of impressing 30 single women.
9.20 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host chats to John C. Reilly, who provides the voice of the title character in Disney's Wreck-It Ralph, and Hayley Atwell, star of Captain America. With music by pop duo Hurts.
10.20 **ITV News:** Weather.
10.35 **Film: Knocked Out.** (2007) Romantic comedy, starring Seth Rogen.
12.50 **Jackpot247.** **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** UCI Cycle-Cross World Championships. **8.00** The Morning Line. **8.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.55** Frasier. (R) **10.25** Frasier. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** Secret Millionaire Ireland. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **5.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.00 **Come Dine with Me.** Caroline Wardrope hosts the final dinner party in Glasgow. (R)
6.25 **Channel 4 News.**
6.50 **4thought.tv.** Northern Ireland's Union Flag dispute and the questions it raises about the religious divide in the public's eyes.
6.55 **Film: Crocodile Dundee II.** (1988) The Australian adventurer lures the drug dealers who kidnapped his girlfriend to the Outback for a showdown. Comedy adventure sequel, starring Paul Hogan and Linda Kozlowski.
9.00 **World Without End.** Merthin returns from Italy and urges Caris to elope with him, but she refuses, while Kingsbridge is hit by the Plague that had been sweeping through Europe.
10.05 **Film: Kiss the Girls.** (1997) Thriller, starring Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd, Cary Elwes and Tony Goldwyn.
12.20 **Film: Porky's** (1982) Sex comedy, starring Kim Cattrall. **2.05** The Confession. (R) **2.10** Hollyoaks. **4.15** Smallville. (R) **4.55** Countdown. (R) **5.40** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.05** How Do They Do It? (R) **11.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.40** Dangerous Drivers' School. (R) **1.40** Film: Stranger with My Face. (2009) **3.25** Film: My Neighbor's Secret. (2009) **5.10** Film: Two Mules for Sister Sara. (1970)
7.20 **5 News Weekend.**
7.25 **NCIS.** Having identified the mole in their ranks, the detectives are forced to rely on information from questionable sources as they try to prevent a criminal stealing government secrets. (R)
8.10 **NCIS.** A petty officer is killed in what at first seems to be a road-rage incident - until the team discovers he belonged to an underground fight club. Crime drama, starring Mark Harmon. (R)
9.00 **Law & Order.** Green and Cassidy investigate the murder of a woman after callers to the emergency services report seeing a photograph of her body on the internet. (R)
10.00 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** An ex-financier's girlfriend is murdered.
10.55 **Law & Order: Criminal Intent.** Part two of two. Goren's actions get him suspended.
11.50 **Inside Hollywood 2013.** **12.00** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Merlin **7.45** Doctor Who. Part two of two. A doppelganger seeks revenge against her makers. **8.35** Film: Superman Returns (2006) **11.00** Family Guy **11.40** American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 Lost Land of the Volcano **8.00** The Treasures of Ancient Rome
9.00 Spiral: State of Terror **10.45** When Albums Ruled the World
ITV2
2.15 Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **4.15** You've Been Framed! **5.55** You've Been Framed! Calendar Special **7.00** Film: Back to the Future Part III (1990) **9.20** Take Me Out - The Gossip **10.05** Fake Reaction **10.50** Film: Sleepy Hollow (1999)
ITV3
2.50 A Touch of Frost **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Film: Schindler's List (1993)
ITV4
2.55 Film: Northwest Mounted Police (1940) **5.30** Live Africa Cup of Nations. The third-place play-off (Kick-off 6.00pm). **8.15** TT Legends **8.45** GT Academy **9.15** Film: Mercury Rising (1998) **11.30** Film: Firefox (1982)
E4
3.35 Rules of Engagement **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Happy Endings **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Broke Girls **9.00** Film: The Full Monty (1997) **10.45** The Big Bang Theory **11.45** The Cleveland Show
Film4
2.40 It's a Wonderful Life (1946) **5.15** Carry On Regardless (1961) **7.00** The First Wives Club (1996) **9.00** Predators (2010) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Adrien Brody. **11.10** Jennifer's Body (2009)

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What's On!

Listings supplied by Press Association

SUNDAY'S TV 10.02.13

CHOICE



Stephen Fry

The British Academy Film Awards

BBC1, 9pm
The Oscars may be more in-your-face, but when it comes to understated glamour with a classy edge, the British Academy Film Awards – or Baftas, to you and me – win hands down. Stephen Fry hosts this year's event from London's Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. The only man who knows for sure that he'll be adding one of the trophies to his mantelpiece is Alan Parker. The director is the latest film-maker to be awarded a Bafta fellowship. As for the rest of the evening's awards, Lincoln leads the way with 10 nominations.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.25** Countryfile. **1.25** Call the Midwife. **2.25** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **5.00** Africa. The challenges faced by the continent's wildlife. Last in the series. **6.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **6.30** Blandings. It is the annual castle fete, and as usual Connie forces Clarence to wear a top hat and make a speech, a double ordeal he hopes to dodge after befriending a pair of crafty children. **7.00** Countryfile. Matt Baker explores Cornwall's northern coast to find out about its mythological past. Plus, a farm with a holistic approach to agriculture and tidal power on the Orkney Islands. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00** Call the Midwife. Jenny and Sister Evangelina assist at the birth of a baby with spina bifida, while Nonnatus House plays host to an eccentric cleric friend of Chummy. **9.00** The British Academy Film Awards. Stephen Fry hosts the annual ceremony live from the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, where Lincoln, Les Misérables, Skyfall, Argo and Anna Karenina lead the nominees. **11.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **11.25** Room 101 – Extra Storage. With Clive Anderson, Alex Jones and Jack Whitehall. **12.05** Celebrity Apprentice USA. **1.25** Weatherview. **1.30** News.

BBC2

6.00 Close. **7.15** Film: Rachel and the Stranger. (1948) **8.45** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. **9.15** A to Z of TV Gardening. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. **12.00** EastEnders. **1.55** Plog It! **2.40** Giant Otters of the Amazon: Natural World. **3.40** The Mary Berry Story. **4.40** Songs of Praise. **5.15** In Orbit: How Satellites Rule Our World. **6.15** Ski Sunday. The men's World Championship downhill from Schladming in Austria. **7.00** Food & Drink. Culinary advice and discussion, hosted by Michel Roux Jr. **7.30** Open All Hours. Arkwright feels neglected by Nurse Gladys Emmanuel, and decides to elicit her undivided attention by feigning illness. Comedy, starring Ronnie Barker and Lynda Baron. **8.00** Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson races a Shelby Mustang GT500 against James May and Richard Hammond, who take the pan-European rail network, in a sprint from London to Milan. **9.00** Wonders of Life. Professor Brian Cox travels to southern Africa to explore why Earth is such a fertile place and how it sustains such a large diversity of life forms. **10.00** Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Manchester United v Everton. **11.00** Dancing on the Edge. **12.05** Six Nations Rugby Union. **12.50** Sign Zone: Being Eileen. **1.20** Holby City. **2.20** Close.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Handy Manny. **6.10** Handy Manny. **6.25** The Hive. **6.35** The Hive. **6.40** Dino Dan. **6.55** Dino Dan. **7.05** Almost Naked Animals. **7.15** Almost Naked Animals. **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.05** Rated A for Awesome. **8.15** Rated A for Awesome. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** The Aquabats Super Show. **9.25** House Guest in the Sun. **10.20** 60 Minute Makeover. **11.20** May the Best House Win. **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. **1.25** Rosemary & Thyme. **3.00** Film: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. (2002) **5.50** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.00** ITV News; Weather. **6.15** Dancing on Ice. A romantic love-themed show. **7.45** All Star Family Fortunes. Diarmuid Gavin and Gemma Merna take part. **8.30** Dancing on Ice. The Skate Off. Phillip Schofield and Christine Bleakley preside as the two couples who have the least support skate again in a bid to stay in the competition. **9.00** Mr Selfridge. Harry is left unconscious after the car accident and as his family gathers by his bedside, the news arrives that Mrs Grove is dead – something which leaves Miss Mardie confused. **10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather. **10.15** Film: Duplicity. (2009) Thriller, starring Julia Roberts, Clive Owen, Tom Wilkinson and Paul Giamatti. **1.25** The Store. **2.55** Monk. **3.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **9.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **9.10** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **9.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **9.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **9.50** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.10** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.50** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **11.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **11.10** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **11.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **11.50** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **12.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **12.10** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **12.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **12.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **12.50** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **1.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **1.10** The Jeremy Kyle 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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Thirteen Days, BBC1, 12.20am

Fact-based drama covering the events of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, when the US and Soviet Union confronted each other with nuclear arsenals primed. An American spy plane observes the Russians installing ballistic missiles in Cuba – and over the next 13 days mind games are played out in Washington amid unbearable tension, as President Kennedy comes into conflict with the warmongering military. Starring Kevin Costner, Bruce Greenwood and Steven Culp. (2000)

TUESDAY

The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, BBC1, 11.25pm

A doctor is caught molesting a patient and commits suicide, after which his wife has a miscarriage. She blames his victim for her losses and plans to get revenge, infiltrating the unsuspecting woman's house as a nanny and playing twisted mind games to destroy her life. Thriller, starring Rebecca De Mornay, Annabella Sciorra, Julianne Moore and Ernie Hudson. (1992)



City by the Sea, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.35pm

WEDNESDAY

City by the Sea, BBC1, 11.35pm

A respected New York homicide detective is torn between family ties and official duty when the murder of a drug dealer is blamed on his estranged son. Struggling to come to terms with his offspring's troubled past, he also faces another battle to prevent his grandson following in his father's footsteps and choosing a life of crime. Drama, with Robert De Niro, Frances McDormand, James Franco and Eliza Dushku. (2002)

THURSDAY

The Matrix Revolutions, Channel 5, 10pm

As the survivors of the human race make their last stand against the machines, freedom fighters Neo and Trinity undertake a desperate journey into the heart of the enemy stronghold seeking a way to end the war, while the rogue computer programme Smith sets about remaking the virtual world of the Matrix in his own image. Conclusion of the sci-fi trilogy, starring Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Laurence Fishburne and Hugo Weaving. (2003)

FRIDAY

The Last Boy Scout, ITV, 10.35pm

A private eye half-heartedly takes a job as bodyguard to a nightclub dancer. A shocking attack, however, forces him to take his duties more seriously, and before long he uncovers evidence of murder and corruption – all linked to the world of American football. Action thriller, starring Bruce Willis, Damon Wayans, Chelsea Field, Halle Berry and Noble Willingham. (1991)

Pick of the Week

Celebrating the best of the big-screen offerings

The Oscars may be more in-your-face, but when it comes to understated glamour with a classy edge, the British Academy Film Awards – or Baftas, to you and us – win hands down.

We're now well into the awards season, with the National Television, Golden Globes and Screen Actors having already happened; the aforementioned Oscars are just around the corner too.

But for now, it's London's Royal Opera House in Covent Garden that grabs our attention. That's where Stephen Fry will be hosting the 66th Bafta ceremony from, surrounded by A-listers from across the globe who gaze at him in awe while wondering if they will be taking home one of the coveted Bafta masks.

"Hard as it may be for some characteristically sceptical Britons to believe, the Baftas have real kudos, reputation and cachet all over the world of film-making," says Fry, "I, old as I am, never cease to be shamelessly glorified by the sight of so many legendary names who come every year as nominees and presenters."

The only man who knows for sure that he'll be adding one of the famous trophies to his mantelpiece is Alan Parker. The advertising copywriter-turned-Oscar-nominated director has a string of big-screen successes under his belt, including Midnight Express, Fame, Mississippi Burning, Bugsy Malone and Evita – he's also the latest film-maker to be awarded a Bafta fellowship, following in the footsteps of the likes of Alfred Hitchcock, Steven Spielberg and last year's recipient, Martin Scorsese.

John Willis, chairman of the Academy, says: "Sir Alan Parker is a hugely distinctive film-maker, and a man of uncompromising vision and personality. He has made an immense contribution to the British film industry, receiving a wide range of critical and public acclaim for his writing, producing and directing across almost 40 years of film-making."

"It's almost impossible to highlight any one moment of his career, but the incredible 19 Baftas his films have won indicate the esteem in which he is held by his peers, as well as the outstanding nature of his work."

"I'm delighted that the Academy has taken this opportunity to recognise Sir Alan with the Fellowship this year."

As for the man himself: "When you make your first film, you're sure it will be your last. And then you squeeze your eyes together and suddenly, 40 years later, you're at Bafta getting an award like this. I'm of course enormously flattered and honoured."

As for the rest of the evening's awards, Lincoln leads the way with 10 nominations, followed by Les Misérables and Life of Pi with nine.

In any other year, Hugh Jackman would be a shoe-in for Best Actor for Les Mis, but it would be a surprise if Daniel Day-Lewis didn't beat him to it for his extraordinary turn in Spielberg's biopic of the 14th US president.

Best Actress is far more open, with Jennifer Lawrence (Silver Linings Playbook), Emmanuelle Béart (Amour) and Jessica Chastain (Zero Dark Thirty) all in with a good chance.

Don't bet against the likes of Skyfall (eight nods), Argo (seven) or Anna Karenina (six) doing well either.

It should be an interesting night.



Stephen Fry hosts The British Academy Film Awards, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Food & Drink

BBC2, 8.30pm

Recently we found out how Mary Berry went from being a slightly posh, polio-stricken Bath schoolgirl to much-loved culinary queen in the two-part documentary The Mary Berry Story. Here she's back doing what she does best – demonstrating how to prepare something simply, but well. Mary will be helping presenters Michel Roux and Kate Goodman create the perfect afternoon tea. Food writer William Sitwell is also on hand, making the claim that sliced white bread is the best thing since, well, sliced white bread, and Rachel Khoo, of The Little Paris Kitchen fame, is in the French capital to explain why traditional pâtisseries are so special.

Black Mirror

Channel 4, 10pm

Series one of Charlie Brooker's Twilight Zone-style strand aired in 2011, and won the Best TV movie/mini-series award at the International Emmys, and a Golden Rose for Best Comedy at the Rose d'Or Television Festival. Season two also looks like must-see TV. The opener centres on young couple Martha (Hayley Atwell) and Ash (Domhnall Gleeson), who move to a remote cottage. He's obsessed with social media, so when Ash tragically dies, a new service capable of using his digital footprint as a basis for further communication gives Martha a chance to continue their relationship. However, problems arise when Ash is recreated in physical form.

TUESDAY

Alex Polizzi: The Fixer

BBC2, 8pm

As a member of the renowned Forte dynasty, Alex Polizzi knows a thing or two about what it takes to keep a family business going, and she's ready to pass on that hard-won wisdom in the second series of The Fixer. Over the next few weeks, she'll be turning her expert eye on everything from a beauty salon in Essex to an undertakers in Hampshire, but she starts with East London interiors shop Alf Onnie's, which specialises in fabrics and curtains. The business was established by the siblings' grandfather in the 1920s, but has recently been struggling as the recession and the housing-slump have taken their toll. However, Alex believes the shop's woes can't all be blamed on the economic climate...

Dallas

Channel 5, 9pm

Could foul play be involved in Tommy's disappearance? Christopher (Jesse Metcalfe) thinks so and is desperate to connect Pamela (Julie Gonzalo) to the crime, while she is doing her best to gain control of Ewing Energies. Meanwhile, JR (Larry Hagman) and John Ross (Josh Henderson) will do anything to reclaim their birthright, even if it means turning one family member against another. When a new member of the family turns up at Southfork, Ryland's sadistic games push Ann to the brink.

WEDNESDAY

From the Heart

ITV, 9pm

Strip away all the hullabaloo of Valentine's Day, and the leading lights at ITV are keen to get us thinking about something much more important this week – the benefits of organ donation. Dermot O'Leary hosts this one-off special raising awareness of the NHS Organ Donor Register, and he's roped in a few familiar faces to help him. So step forward Rowan Atkinson, Hugh Laurie, Pixie Lott, Harry Enfield, Paul Whitehouse and some of the cast from Outnumbered with comedy and musical offerings. Plus, Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues orchestra, McFly and Alexandra Burke perform.

THURSDAY

EastEnders

BBC1, 7.30pm

It's Valentine's Day, and Walford's cutest couple, Abi and Jay, decide to mark the occasion by taking their relationship to the next level. However, the chances of anyone else enjoying a nice, romantic evening are looking pretty slim. Bianca certainly has bigger things than love on her mind as she frogmarches Liam to school, telling him that until he stops playing truant, he's grounded. If that wasn't stressful

enough, she then discovers that the reason the stock she and Kat have been selling on their stall is so cheap is because it's stolen.

Hugh's Fish Fight

Channel 4, 9pm

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall is back for a new series, but what's that got to do with the price of fish? Well, funny enough, quite a bit actually, and a lot more besides. The chef's made no secret of the fact he wants to do his bit to save our seas, but now his plan is stepping up a gear. With two thirds of the planet's fish stocks overfished, and a fifth of the world's stocks collapsing all together, Hugh wants to persuade governments around the world to set up more marine protected areas. In this first instalment, Hugh heads to the Philippines and investigates how local fishermen dynamite fish, a practice that is destroying fish stocks.

FRIDAY

Sea City

BBC2, 8.30pm

We are an island nation and as such have relied upon the sea for sustenance and transport since time immemorial. These days, our shipbuilding and fishing industries may have declined substantially, but there are still a good many people who make a living on or by the ocean's waves. In this new series, somewhat unexpectedly voiced by John 'Nasty Nick' Altman, we're given a glimpse into the lives of the men and women of Southampton Port – the people who really are keeping Britain afloat, by dealing with over a million cruise passengers and 40 million tons of cargo annually.

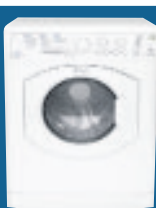
Hugh's Fish Fight, Thursday, Channel 4, 9pm

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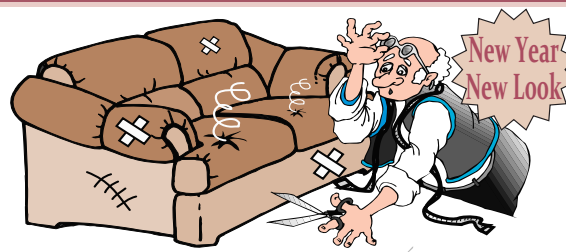


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Top guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Sedgley, Kidderminster, Stourbridge

'Surprisingly spacious' semi with four bedrooms

AN extended semi-detached family home with four bedrooms in a popular residential area of Lower Gornal has been reduced in price to £124,950.

The house, in Summer Lane, is described as surprisingly spacious with accommodation including two reception rooms, downstairs WC, fitted dining kitchen as well as central heating, uPVC double glazing, off road parking and enclosed rear garden.

On the ground floor the lounge, 16ft 4in by 12ft 3in, has a wooden fireplace while the dining room is 17ft 3in by 7ft 8in with WC off.

Dishwasher

The dining kitchen, 14ft 4in by 11ft, has an inset stainless steel sink, base and wall units, roll edge work tops, breakfast bar, four ring gas hob with cooker hood, plumbing for automatic washing machine and dishwasher.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of panelled bath with shower and screen, wash hand basin in vanity unit and low flush WC.

Outside the rear garden has a paved patio area and neat lawn with flowers and shrubs.

For further details call Skitts on 01902 686868.



Call the agent Skitts for full details of this property, on the market for £124,950



The lounge measures 16ft 4in x 12ft 3in and includes a fireplace with wood surround

Property Auction

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FORTHCOMING AUCTION

Tuesday 19th February 2013

To be held at... **Aston Villa Football Club from 11.00am**
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1 17 CARINGTON AVENUE, GREAT BARR, BIRMINGHAM B42 2PA
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3 1 LLOYD STREET, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY2 8HG
4 60 WESTBURY ROAD, WEDNESBURY, WEST MIDLANDS WS10 9BT
5 27 THOMPSON ROAD, OLDBURY, WEST MIDLANDS B68 8DE
6 4 WATTON STREET, WEST BROMWICH, WEST MIDLANDS B70 7BP
7 94 WELLS LANE, PERRY BARR, BIRMINGHAM B42 2ST
8 115 JAMES TURNER STREET, BIRMINGHAM B15 4ND
9 FLAT 43 TRAFALGAR COURT, TIVIDALE, OLDBURY, WEST MIDLANDS B69 2JD
10 80 PARKWAY ROAD, PENN, WOLVERHAMPTON WV4 4TE
11 48 HIGH STREET, BROWNHILLS, WEST MIDLANDS WS8 6EL
12 4 HATFIELD ROAD, LOZELS, BIRMINGHAM B15 1JR
13 LAND OFF KENFORD CLOSE, SANDWELL, WEST MIDLANDS - REF SL4 KJ
14 THE MALTINGS AND MALTINGS COURT, ANDERSON ROAD, SMETWICK B66 4AR
15 91-117 STOURBRIDGE ROAD, HALESOWEN, WEST MIDLANDS B63 3UE
16 41 COLLEGE ROAD, MOSELEY, BIRMINGHAM B13 8LR
17 FLAT 5, 31 OXFORD ROAD, MOSELEY, BIRMINGHAM B13 9EH
18 27 BRADFORD STREET, WALSALL WS1 1PN
19 18 BROMLEY STREET, DOBSON, BIRMINGHAM B9 4AN
20 FORMER BOAT CLUB, WYKEN GRANDE ROAD, COVENTRY
21 11A TREWILLIE AVENUE, FULHAM ROAD, SPARKHILL, BIRMINGHAM B11 4QJ
22 17 CROWN STREET, LEICESTER LE4 6HA
23 168 HIGH STREET, BOSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE LE67 6LP
24 63 KINGSTON DRIVE, LEICESTER LE2 3HD
25 19 HERWARD RISE, HALESOWEN, WEST MIDLANDS B62 8AN
26 2 REASIDE CRESCENT, BIRMINGHAM B14 6UN
27 68 PITCAP ROAD, SMETWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B67 8NE
28 65 PEAN HORSE ROAD, GREAT BARR, BIRMINGHAM B43 7RY
29 115 PARKFIELD ROAD, OLDBURY B68 8PT
30 12 LANGLEY GROVE, LANGLEY ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B10 0TP
31 13 AND 15 REGENT STREET, WICKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE LE15 0AZ
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43 20 BROMSGROVE ROAD, REDDIT, WORCESTERSHIRE B97 4QY
44 REAR WORKSHOP 2275 DOUGLAS ROAD, ADKINS GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B27 6ET
45 LAND AT PORTWAY HILL, TIVIDALE, OLDBURY (ADJ B69 1PD), REF: GH
46 46 MANOR ROAD NORTH, BIRMINGHAM B15 8US
47 4 KENILWORTH ROAD, LIGHTHOUSE HILL, LAMINGTON SPA, WARWICKSH CV33 9TD
48 376 PENN ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON WV4 4DB
49 220 WOLVERHAMPTON STREET, DARLASTON, WEST MIDLANDS WS10 8UD
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54 14 ARDEN ROAD, SMETWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B67 6AK
55 113 LINGLEY WALK, CHAMLEY WOOD, BIRMINGHAM B37 7SD
56 FLAT 6 PHOENIX COURT, WEST DRIVE, PERSHORE ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B5 7RT
57 22 ELDER LANE, GRYFAM, COXWILLE, LEICESTERSHIRE LE67 8HD
58 28 BRENTFORD ROAD, KINGS HEATH, BIRMINGHAM B14 4QD
59 89 HIGH STREET, BROCKMOR, BIRELEY HILL, WEST MIDLANDS DY5 3JB
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HALESOWEN, NEWTON COURT

A recently converted three bedroom penthouse apartment finished to an extremely high standard centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, with 2 bathrooms, one single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC = C

£750 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, ST GILES CLOSE

Driveway for 3 cars. An unfurnished detached house situated in a quiet cul-de-sac comprising of: through lounge/dining room, modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom with jacuzzi bath, 3 bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing, garage and driveway parking, rear garden. EPC = D

£650 PCM



QUINTON, GRAYSWOOD PARK ROAD

Characterful home with good sized reception rooms. An unfurnished semi detached house in this very popular residential area. Comprising of: 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and a study room, bathroom with shower, separate w.c., gas central heating, front & rear gardens, garage & driveway parking. Available mid February. EPC = D

£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, WROXLEY HOUSE

Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury ground floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC = B

£595 PCM



HALESOWEN, TANHOUSE LANE

Ideally located for Colley Lane Primary School, local shops in Colley Gate, bus routes to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Merry Hill, this lovely semi-detached home features: 2 good size bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, modern fitted kitchen, 3 good size lounges and conservatory, well worth a viewing. EPC = C

£600 PCM



MERRY HILL, MADISON AVENUE

Flexible accommodation. A spacious unfurnished modern townhouse, within walking distance of Merry Hill shopping centre, featuring kitchen, downstairs WC, dining room/study, lounge, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master en-suite shower room, allocated parking space. EPC = C

£595 PCM



HALESOWEN, LINNET CLOSE

Desirable cul-de-sac location. Situated in a very popular area of the Lodgefield Estate with easy access for Halesowen and Cradley Heath, this unfurnished semi detached house features: gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted breakfast kitchen with appliances, 2 bedrooms with 1 having wardrobe, modern bathroom with shower, front & rear gardens and driveway parking. EPC = E

£575 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HALESOWEN ROAD

3 bed family home. Located on this popular road, with easy access to Halesowen, Cradley Heath and local train station. This lovely semi detached house features 2 double bedrooms and a single bedroom, spacious lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, parking to the rear and on road. Well worth a viewing. EPC = D

£550 PCM



TIPTON, PEARTREE AVENUE

Cul-de-sac location. This deceptively large 3 bedroom terraced house is undergoing a re-decoration and re-carpeting. It features a spacious lounge, large modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice size garden, driveway parking and in a cul-de-sac location. EPC = C

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAGLEY STREET

Fantastic refurbishment over 2 floors. A fully refurbished modern duplex apartment above an electrical shop in the very centre of Halesowen, featuring a large open plan living area with modern fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower. By agreement £40 fixed electric charge. EPC = C

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, BLOOMFIELD STREET NORTH

Extremely well presented and surprisingly large terrace with off road parking. Within walking distance to Halesowen, local bus routes and shops, comprises 2 bedrooms, nice lounge, attractive fitted diner/kitchen with white goods excluding washing machine, utility room, house bathroom with shower, a glorious courtyard garden and gated driveway. EPC = E

£550 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, PROSPECT GARDENS

Desirable Oldswinford location. Close to Stourbridge Town Centre this newly redecorated, unfurnished mid terraced house comprises 2 bedrooms, fitted dining kitchen, cosy lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, bathroom with shower, small rear garden, parking space to front. EPC = D

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, FAIRMILE ROAD

Beautifully furnished. Situated in a popular residential area of Halesowen, with easy access to buses to the town, is this modern furnished first floor apartment comprising of: 2 bedrooms, excellent natural light in lounge, modern fitted kitchen, bathroom with a shower, gas central heating, double glazing, garage parking, and communal gardens. EPC = E

£525 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, CHAPEL STREET

A three bedroom link detached house within walking distance to lye shops, buses and train station, comprising of: lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms and bathroom, electric heating, double glazing, rear garden with patio, blocked paved driveway for two cars. Available immediately. EPC = F

£495 PCM



BRIERLEY HILL, FOXDALE DRIVE

Freshly redecorated and within 5 minutes drive of Brierley Hill town centre and a few minutes more from Merry Hill shopping centre. This unfurnished and terraced house comprises 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, 1 with fitted wardrobes, house bathroom with shower, nice sized lounge, fitted kitchen, allocated parking, no rear garden. EPC = C

£475 PCM



DUDLEY, SOUTHGATE WAY

A stunning and spacious well presented unfurnished first floor apartment featuring 2 double bedrooms, electric storage heating, double glazing, open plan living room with fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. Available immediately. EPC = B

£450 PCM



HALESOWEN, MANOR LANE

A spacious furnished first floor flat featuring gas central heating, living room with sofas, large fitted kitchen with white goods, double bedroom with bed and wardrobes, large shower room, secure parking at rear. Available immediately. EPC = C

£440 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, WINCHESTER CLOSE

A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to the M5 J2, comprises 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, bathroom with shower, parking space and parking area for visitors, communal gardens. EPC rating = D

£395 PCM



HALESOWEN, NETHEREND LANE

Well presented throughout. This unfurnished ground floor apartment is within walking distance to Cradley Heath train station, comprises modern fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, bathroom with shower, 1 bedroom with built in wardrobes, en block garage. EPC rating = E

£380 PCM



HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY

Quiet location. An opportunity to acquire a spacious first floor apartment. Part furnished to suit tenant, on the ever popular Homer Hill estate, comprises: 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, lounge with dining table and chairs, side table/coffee table, fitted kitchen with white goods, modern house bathroom with shower, driveway parking, available immediately. Ideal for first time renters. EPC = F

£375 PCM



NETHERTON, ST GEORGES ROAD

Spacious and quiet. This lovely unfurnished first floor apartment features electric storage heating, living room, fitted kitchen with a fridge freezer, 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking space. EPC = D

£375 PCM

Home of Property **Dudley**
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Boom in sales at a flagship estate

MORE than half of the homes in the second phase of a flagship Dudley housing scheme have been snapped up, as Keepmoat prepares to open a new view home at its latest development.

The award-winning house-builder has sold out on phase one at its Friars Gate development, and is preparing to open a new Hayfield-style 'view' home on phase 2 on Saturday, February 16, in addition to the existing show home on the site.

Friars Gate will see a total of 314 two- and three-bedroom homes built as part of the transformation of the former North Priory estate over the next four years – creating a whole new community.

Local house hunters will be able to view the three-bedroom Hayfield view home, which will showcase the size of the property and its newly landscaped garden.

Work on the Friars Gate project began in January 2011, reservations are being taken for phase three of the project, which is not due to be released until April.

Major

Eamonn McInerney, group sales and marketing director at Keepmoat, said: "This is a major development for what is set to be a brand new community and the popularity of the home we've seen shows that this will be a thriving area in the heart of Dudley."

Prices for homes in phase two of the scheme start from £89,995 for a two-bedroom home and £119,995 for a three-bedroom property, rising to £124,995 for a two-and-a-half storey, three-bedroom home.

A number of Government-backed schemes are available at the development to support first time buyers looking to take their first step on the property ladder.

The show home and sales office at Priory Road, Dudley DY1 1HJ is open seven-days-a-week from 10am – 5pm.

For more information call 01384 456320 or visit www.Keepmoat.com



A Hayfield style house at the Friars Gate development in Dudley

Five-bedroom in a cul-de-sac



This property has a guide price in the region of £274,995. Call 01299 405072 for details

SITUATED in a peaceful cul-de-sac location and described by agents as immaculate throughout, this five bedroom property in Steatite Way, Stourport on Severn, is for sale with a price guide of £274,995.

With accommodation briefly comprising of hallway, cloakroom, kitchen, lounge, conservatory, dining room, five bedrooms – one en-suite – and bathroom, the property also benefits from integral garage, gas central heating, double glazing and an alarm system.

On the ground floor the cloakroom

has a WC and wash hand basin while the dining room is 11ft 8in by 8ft 3in, with stairs down to a lower inner hall and kitchen – 14ft 10in by 10ft 8in – with a range of wall and base units, roll edge work surfaces, inset stainless steel one and a half bowl sink with mixer tap, four ring gas hob with extractor over, built-in double electric oven, integral fridge and freezer, space and plumbing for other appliances and breakfast bar.

The lounge, 17ft 1in by 12ft 1in, has a contemporary wall mounted remote control electric fire and patio doors to a conservatory which is 11ft 10in by 7ft 6in with doors to the side.

On the first floor is a bathroom with

corner bath, pedestal wash hand basin and WC, bedroom one and a second bedroom with en-suite of shower cubicle, WC and pedestal wash hand basin.

A second landing leads to two further bedrooms, with stairs to bedroom five in the attic which is 23ft 2in by 11ft.

Outside to the front is a driveway with off road parking with a small garden with water feature, with the landscaped rear garden having a rockery, fish pool with waterfall, paved terrace and decking and two lawned areas.

Call Hayden Estates on 01299 405072 for more details.



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The Broadway Dudley



Offers Over £190,000

Detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, modern kitchen, downstairs shower room, family bathroom and rear garden.

MacDonald Close Tividale



Offers Over £150,000

End terrace three storey, three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge/diner, kitchen and master bedroom with en-suite.

The Broadway Dudley



£145,000

A three bedroom property comprising entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, utility area, bathroom, rear garden, driveway and garage.

Whitehall Drive Dudley



Offers Over £140,000

Detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, extended kitchen, conservatory and an integral garage.

Hermit Street Dudley



£140,000

New Instruction. Viewings to start with an open day on 9th February. Extremely well presented three bedroom detached property.

Goodrich Mews Dudley



£130,000

Link detached three bedroom property briefly comprising kitchen, lounge, conservatory, family bathroom, rear garden and garage.

William Barrows Way Tipton



£130,000

End terraced four bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, master bedroom with en-suite and rear garden.

Cromwell Street Dudley



£65,000

A three bedroom terrace property briefly comprising WC, dining room, lounge, kitchen and bathroom.

Hamilton Avenue Halesowen



Awaited

Cakemore Road Rowley Regis



£125,000

Traditional semi detached property with accommodation comprising lounge/diner, veranda, three bedrooms and family bathroom. Halesowen

Rowley Village Rowley Regis



Offers Over £120,000

A modern bedroom semi detached house with accommodation comprising three bedrooms and a rear garden. Halesowen

Wiltshire Drive Halesowen



OIRO £110,000

Modern semi detached property situated in a cul-de-sac. The property comprises kitchen, three bedrooms and allocated parking. Halesowen



OIRO £290,000

A modern extended detached house comprising lounge, kitchen breakfast room, conservatory and five bedrooms. Halesowen

Beecher Road East Halesowen



£90,000

Semi detached property with accommodation comprising lounge, kitchen, veranda, three bedrooms, bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Rowington Avenue Rowley



Offers Over £80,000

Traditional mid terraced property with accommodation comprising lounge, two bedrooms, family bathroom, and rear garden. Halesowen

Pippin Avenue Halesowen



Offers Over £50,000

One bedroom ground floor apartment also benefits from a garage en-block. Halesowen

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	10 Reg Toyota Aygo £5995 or £36 pw		56 Reg Renault Scenic £4295 or £26 pw		07 Reg Fiesta 1.4 TDCi £5495 or £33pw
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Finance Example - Cash Price £3995, Less Cash or Part Exchange Deposit £500 Amount Of Credit £3495, Total Amount Payable £5455.60 48 Monthly Payments of £103.20 or 208 weekly payments of £23.82.



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Motoring

Peugeot's crossover is ahead of supermini field



The new Peugeot 2008 – stays in the supermini class, but has the look and feel of a compact SUV

PEUGEOT'S new 2008 supermini crossover is aiming to stay ahead of the market with a car the length of a supermini but almost the height of a compact SUV.

It will be 4.16m long; about 20cm longer than the 208 but still in supermini territory.

Few real details have been released, but the engine choices will include at

least one sub-100g/km option for road tax-free motoring.

The new three-cylinder petrol engines debuted in the 208 will also see service.

Alloy wheels will be up to 17 inches in size, while the firm mentions 'mud and snow' tyres being available.

Style influences appear to come from the RCZ coupe in the shape of a flowing roof line.

The 2008 can't copy the RCZ's 'double bubble' roof due to the expense

of such a design, but it does take some inspiration from its sporty cousin.

It is the first Peugeot to be designed across multiple market zones to cut costs, and near-identical cars will be built in France, China and Brazil to cope with demand on their respective continents.

The 2008 will make its world debut at the Geneva Motor Show in March, before the order books open in June and the car arrives in showrooms later in the summer.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 324 - 88g/km.

Available on selected models only, at participating retailers, exclusions apply. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/offers or contact your local Vauxhall Retailer for details. 24-60 month term, excluding ADAM models (24-48 month term). Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH11SR or Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Offer will apply to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B supported units). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 2nd April 2013. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. *Corsa Limited Edition £2,800 customer deposit (after deduction of Vauxhall contribution) followed by 60 monthly payments of £185. *Astra GTC Sport £5,500 customer deposit (after deduction of Vauxhall contribution) followed by 60 monthly payments of £209. Model shown has 19 inch alloy wheels available at an extra cost. *Corsa SXi £2,780 customer deposit followed by 60 monthly payments of £179. †First year insurance offer available on Corsa SXi models only. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21-75 (motor policy only). Drivers must have held a valid full UK license for a minimum of 2 years. Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd. Other terms and conditions apply.

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Spark 1.0+ and Aveo 1.2 LS shown feature metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. Offer available until March 31st 2013. *0% APR Representative. Minimum 20% deposit. Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance by Santander Consumer (UK) plc, RH15SR. Offers available at participating Dealers only and not available in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all Dealer stock. Warranty expires at 5 years or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment of a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance-backed warranty up to a maximum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations and at participating Dealers only. Prices correct at time of print.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Spark Range: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1) CO₂ emissions 119g/km. Chevrolet Aveo Range: Urban 34.0 (8.3) - 67.2 (4.2), Extra Urban 55.3 (5.1) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined 44.8 (6.3) - 78.4 (3.6), CO₂ emissions 147 - 95g/km.

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SINGLE LADIES

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

CLARE 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTm caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

SARA young fun and sick of being single, trendy, well presented, very attractive, loves good food/wine, keeping fit, fast cars, looking to fall in love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401543

I'M Carol 39, slim, blonde with legs 11, passionate by nature, loves tic and looking for similar solvent male for fun times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401467

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

JANINE petite cute female who loves meals in/out, romantic strolls, WLTm interesting appreciative, independent man for life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400803

JULIE 30's female looking for some much needed tic with similar laidback male. Likes nights in/out, socialising, romance etc, call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400487

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

KATHY 38yrs, knows what she wants out of life, wltm similar genuine male to wine/dine enjoy travel, share ambitions and hopefully fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400793

CHANTELLE 40yr old slim sensual confident female who loves to party, seeking older male for fun dates without complications. Any age/race. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400465

JACKIE lonely discreet 30's female with many interests, WLTm kind professional male to share nice times with. Status/age/looking unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400451

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring fun man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400263

CLARE 37 attractive slim with long dark hair and big brown eyes, WLTm genuine male who is honest, sincere and won't waste my time or break my heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400199

TRACY 26, pretty petite brunette, possibly looking for LTR but definitely looking for fun times with outgoing guy. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397027

PAULA 37, WLTm male companion for meals out, social drinking, weekends away, hopefully leading to a meaningful friendship with benefits! Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398503

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398349

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

NATASHA single professional 39yr old brunette looking for fun and friendship with genuine guy, 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719

TRISH tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves tic, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397579

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923

ANGELA green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399633

LISA attractive blue eyed brunette, sporty, well maintained 25yr old uni student looking for older male for discreet dates. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399619

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399523

HI I'm Sharon an outgoing single mum looking to find love so thought I would give this a go, please don't make me regret it, someone call me pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399197

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

SHARON slim blonde blue eyed outgoing 30's female looking for uncomplicated meets and adult companionship, like what you hear? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400119

I'M Heather I love to cook, eat in/out, share a nice flirty glass of large wine or two with good company and am eager to hear from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399715

NICKY lonely 39yr old single mum looking for adult companionship and strictly no strings fun. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399189

DEBBIE sexy size 14, fun, outgoing, discreet, looking for fun times only with male over 40yrs, call to find out more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398759

MAUREEN seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323543

PICK AN ADVERT AND MAKE A DATE TODAY!

HI I'm Marilyn a blue eyed beauty. Call me if you have a happy outlook and are seeking some fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395665

SUE confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397485

MARIA French female looking for mutually convenient companionship, very friendly, very discreet and very interested in meeting with you! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397451

LUCY beautiful big bottomed black female, very tactile, seeks mature honest white male for loving fun times. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397389

KATHERINE 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship. Pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397123

HI I'm Natalie 24, pretty, friendly, single, seeking energetic man for romantic walks, cosy nights in and fun-loving relationship. Any age/looks/race. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397489

TINA young attractive 27yr old single female looking for older friendly loving male for adult fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397563

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397535

MICHELLE attractive 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395717

BUBBLEY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 357919

VICKY honest caring female 33yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WLTm someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383911

DENISE tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys nights in/out, animals, WLTm tall male for fun times possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391873

JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTm older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378481

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325

SHAPELY attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152

CAROLINE 42yrs, slim attractive blonde. Varied interests and solvent. WLTm honest male of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396675

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTm male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

KAREN witty female who loves to laugh, WLTm similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

ALICIA 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059

I'M Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395051

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893

LADY young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, likes cinema, shopping, meals out, seeks similar female friends for days out and evenings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387117

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

SINGLE MEN

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TIGER Woods lookalike, seeking curvy, scrumptious female for fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401737

STEVE 60, likes sports, meals out, seeks female with view to permanent relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401695

VINCE 52, caring, seeking female for fun and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401683

FRANK tall, distinguished 68yr old mature, professional gent, sensual, tactile, seeks similar, warm, responsive lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400967

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AIDEN single dad, 44, seeking female for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401651

40YR old Asian male, GSOH, likes meals out, country walks, looking for English lady with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401609

MALE 50, genuine, honest, many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394232

MICHAEL 50, nice eyes, seeking female companion for holidays and weekends away, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401479

STEVE 60, likes sports, meals out, seeks similar female for permanent relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401441

RICHARD 48, dark hair, brown eyes, olive skin, WLTm lady, 40-50 for LTR, size unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401431

ATTRACTIVE tall, Indian professional male, GSOH, easygoing, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeks female with GSOH who enjoys life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401385

TALL mature, solvent male, seeks to wine and dine younger lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401241

YOUNG 70's male, widower, own transport, active in business, likes weekends away, seeks honest, caring female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401203

RICHARD 39, honest, caring, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks lady, 35-40 for good times in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401145

IAN 6ft, likes meals out, weekends away, seeks female, Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394134

IAN tall, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, caring, genuine, loving, tender, happy go lucky, likes music, theatre, meals out, romantic nights in, seeks similar female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401055

DAVE happy go lucky, sociable, seeks attractive young lady, 35-40 to pamper and cook for. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401043

NEW Year new start. Romantic white male, 47, 5ft 11ins, likes holidays, keep fit, music, cinema, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401013

KEITH white male, 49, handsome, 6ft 2ins, seeks buxom black female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394094

MALE 39, 6ft 2ins, honest, loyal, caring nature, seeks similar female with view to permanent, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400703

COUPLE male white, 50, large build, female, black, busty, petite, 40, seeks bi female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400697

KARL 28, black hair, brown eyes, smart, 5ft 3ins, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400953

PAUL 52, looking for friendship, possible relationship with someone who can make me happy in 2013. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400849

MALE 60, 5ft 10ins, loving, caring, seeking genuine female, any age, 40-60 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400513

MALE seeking blonde female, 55-60 for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400435

COLIN 62, divorced, many interests, GSOH, seeking slim, attractive, 50's female for companionship, maybe LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400389

MALE 58, good looking, placid, seeks honest, loyal, caring female with view to becoming soul mates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400313

STEVE single dad, slim, 45, looking for girl who wants fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400257

COLIN 62, divorced, many interests, GSOH, seeking slim, attractive, 50's female for companionship, maybe LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400389

GARY 46, loyal, genuine, GSOH, down to earth, seeking attractive lady for relationship. South Shrops/North Herefordshire. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400237

STEVE 49, fed up, seeking female for fun and friendship, possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393218

57YR old male, good looking, seeking female for fun times and nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397463

GARY 39, seeks female, 30-50 for LTR and fun. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398747

FRIENDLY guy 49, tall, fit, GSOH, attractive, seeks lady for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399091

TAYLOR 50, tall, athletic, GSOH, WLTm female, attractive, curvy for friendship, maybe more, food, communication, evenings out, travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399067

STEVE 54, attractive, seeks older lady, 55-75 for mutual adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399755

CARL 40, likes DVDs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393766

GAY SINGLES

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www.localgaydate.co.uk

MARK 36, seeking fun, outgoing male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401723

STEVE 54 bi, not scene, seeking guy of similar age or older for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401465

OLDER male, outgoing, sporty, seeking younger man for fun and friendship, slim-medium build, active, hairy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401225

CD 70 plus seeking CD 70 plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393208

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892

GAY male, 34, slim, toned, seeking older guy for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395735



Women TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. Texts cost £1.50 per message Help Desk: 0844 445 7707

GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND JPRES followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to 66888 (T&C's below)

NATALIA, naughty but nice! Chat to me about anything you wish. Text JPRES 204332 to 66888

JULIET, just left Boarding School, mature 18yrs seeking fun chat with guys. Text JPRES 203779 to 66888

SINGLE mum, bored at home, why not chat to me. Text JPRES 204464 to 66888

JANET, Glamorous grannie, v young looking, 58 yrs, would love to chat to you. Text JPRES 204219 to 66888

CALLING all men, Jasmine is at home with the phone in her hand, awaiting your calls, she is 28yrs and is vibrant, attractive and fun loving. Text JPRES 204144 to 66888

JESSICA is a blonde bombshell, just waiting to chat to you. Text JPRES 203858 to 66888

PAULA is a petite black lady with a generous smile and luscious dark hair. Give her a call today. Text JPRES 203671 to 66888

TONI, stuck at home with nothing to do, pick up the phone send her a text. Text JPRES 203946 to 66888

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cally good, £795. 07711 038370.

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CD/radio, tax March, MoT
November.
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good condition, £750 one.
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miles, silver, long MoT, new
cambelt, excellent condition,
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tion, £1,285 one. 07758 866699.

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01902 752919.

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173,997 miles, blue, alarm, long
MoT, diesel, tax, £1,000 one. 07805
825467.

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946218.

PICKUP TIPPER TRUCK 3500
Weight, 11 months MoT, tax etc
£1,500. 07711 946218.

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reg, fully boarded, has engine
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52,000 miles, taxed, MoT, d, good
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Places on offer for up to 100 walkers



WE are now in week six of the training programme in preparation for the Action Heart five-mile run.

If you haven't already entered the February 24 event, act now!

Visit www.actionheartrunning.com and download an entry form, or you can enter online by visiting www.runbritain.com and searching for the event.

This year, Action Heart are also allocating up to 100 places for walkers. You will need to indicate on the form if you are a walker and a yellow race number will be sent in your race pack.

Walkers will set off on the five-mile course starting and ending at Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley at 9am with runners going at 9.30.

Action Heart is a registered charity based in Dudley committed to the rehabilitation of patients who have suffered a heart attack, undergone heart surgery or suffer from heart-related illness.

Schedule

Funds raised at this event will be used to develop the service provided at the Action Heart Centre at Russells Hall Hospital.

For those following the schedule, if you find you cannot get out for a run on one of the specific days then do not worry – it can be flexible. Take the rest day early – do not become obsessed with times and distances.

The course has some long uphill pulls and downhill stretches. Adjust your pace uphill to achieve the same energy output as on the flat rather than keep up your speed. Going downhill can be more difficult – again, adjust your speed and don't try to make up for lost time.

The training schedule for the coming week is aimed at building stamina. Remember, finishing is more important than your time.

Each runner who finishes will take away a T-shirt as a memento of the day.

Training: Week six

Monday: Rest

Tuesday: Three-mile jog

Wednesday: Two-mile run

Thursday: Rest

Friday: Three-mile jog

Saturday: Rest

Sunday: Five-mile run

Blakemore treble as Hawks ease home

Girls League
Wyre Forest U15 0
Halas Hawks U15 5

HALAS initially found it difficult to penetrate a strong defence in this League Cup game.

But once Amy Blakemore found the net after 20 minutes, Halas took control. Blakemore completed her hat-trick with Kayleigh Pomfrett and Olivia Tandy also on the scoresheet.

Boys League
Halas Hawks U9 East 0
Old Wulfs U9 North 4

Halas' inability to find the net

cost them dear against the table-toppers.

A tight first half saw the visitors one up at the break.

Ethan Daly hit the post for Halas and Wulfs then broke to score.

Two late goals gave the scoreline an uneven look.

Halas Hawks U10 West 2
Kewford Eagles U10 West 0

This was a fine match between two well-matched teams.

But two well-taken goals from man of the match Brodie Crumpton proved to be the difference.

Halas Hawks

Halas Hawks U10 East 1
Netherton U10 1

An end-to-end, all-action affair saw Netherton take the lead in the middle of the second half with a super strike.

Halas plugged away and got their reward with a fine Tommy Swancott goal.

Halesowen Town Colts U11 0
Halas Hawks U11 East 2

Halas dominated the first half and took the lead with a composed Harvey Jacobs chip.

Halas largely failed to take their chances throughout the course of the match.

But they eventually wrapped up the points through an Oliver Miller goal.

Halas Hawks U14 1
Kewford Eagles U14 South 7

A disappointing first half cost Halas against Kewford South. They took the lead through Warren Hale but trailed 4-1 at the interval.

The second half was better from Halas but they still conceded three more.

Legion Lions U15 0
Halas Hawks U15 3

Halas broke the deadlock through Josh Mason after a goal-less first half.

Halas, who were grateful for Dillon Mullan's outstanding performance in defence, added two more goals through Adam Higginson and a header by Dominic Hipkiss.

Trysull Tigers U16 0
Halas Hawks U16 2

Goals from Mitchell Tomlinson and Dan Willets put Halas into the last eight of the cup.

Hat-trick from Hill in taming of Shrews

Warwick 3 Old Halesonians 1
OLD HALESONIANS hockey thirds found it hard to break down a strong Warwick side.

The visitors' only goal came when Alex Evans hit the ball into the Day it was deflected into the goal by a Warwick defender.

Halas struggled to create chances and were unable to prevent a defeat.

Shrewsbury 1
Old Halesonians 5

Things went better for Old Hales thirds on Sunday when they visited Shrewsbury in a rearranged fixture.

The mid-table clash saw the visitors dominate. A good defensive effort snuffed out Shrewsbury's attacking threat while a hat-trick from Adam Hill and two goals by Ash Greaves gave the visitors victory.

■ Old Halesonians' under-11s dominated a tournament at Droitwich, winning all four games and not conceding a single goal.

They began by beating Knoll School 1-0, following up with a 2-0 win over Bromsgrove A.

A 3-0 victory over Kings Heath preceded a 2-0 defeat of Bromsgrove B in Old Hales' final game.

Results: Old Halesonians Ladies firsts 1 Pershore 7, Kings Heath 4 Old Halesonians Ladies seconds 1, Old Halesonians fourths 4 Worcester 1, Old Halesonians fifths 6 Stratford 1, Kings Heath 0 Old Halesonians Badgers 1.

Lot of spirit is shown in on-road win

Dunkirk 1 Tipton Town 2

TIPTON TOWN overcame Nottingham-based Dunkirk with a fully committed team performance as every player rose to the occasion.

Dunkirk's aggressive, but effective, style had Tipton on the back foot early on, keeper Jack Hayfield twice starting with smart saves in this Midland Alliance game.

The visitors took a 10th-minute lead through influential skipper Tom Tonks.

Tipton's cause was made far more difficult in the 61st minute when defender Paul Henley received a red card for retaliation after being fouled by Bradley Wells.

But they rocked the home side with a second goal three minutes later when Lewis Haycock's speculative lob deceived the home keeper Daniel Dobbie. Dunkirk scored in the 71st minute.

Spit and no polish leads to downfall

Albion 0 Tottenham 1

SO, perhaps Peter Odemwingie doesn't have a monopoly on stupidity at Albion after all.

When it comes to acts of brainlessness, Goran Popov proved he can run Albion's wantaway striker close, *writes Steve Madeley.*

Steve Clarke will never know whether his 11 men could have backed up a solid first-half display by running Spurs close over 90 minutes on Sunday.

And that, thanks to Popov's ugly spitting at Spurs full-back Kyle Walker, meant another day of frustration for Baggies fans to end a week of anger and shock at the hands of Odemwingie.

A section of the Hawthorns crowd made Walker the target of their ire as they saw a decent chance to return to winning ways blown apart by Popov's moment of madness.

But the majority, along with the Macedonian's angry manager and team-mates, directed their fury straight at the shamed full-back after he spat towards Walker following a heated verbal exchange just three minutes into the second half.

Solid

After Odemwingie's week of ranting and raving and Popov's loss of control, at least the Hawthorns offers will be swelled by a weighty deposit of fines. However, that will offer little comfort for Clarke.

His side are now winless in eight games after the solid first-half foundations they laid finally gave way to Gareth Bale's sledgehammer once Popov's act of petulance removed a vital brick.

In the wake of Odemwingie's bizarre meltdown in deadline week, another loss of control from a crowd hero was the last thing Clarke needed – especially with his side threatening to rediscover something like their early-season form during a hugely encouraging opening 45 minutes.

The head coach was bold in naming a two-



Moment of madness – Goran Popov, left, is sent off by referee Mark Clattenburg for spitting early in the second half against Spurs

man forward line against one of the top flight's most dangerous sides.

And, had Shane Long and Romelu Lukaku shown a little more composure at key moments before half-time, the policy might well have paid off handsomely.

The pair combined effectively as early as the fifth minute when Long raced onto a Lukaku flick and looked primed to score, but his first touch took him away from goal and his second knocked the ball out of play as a good chance went begging.

Clint Dempsey headed harmlessly wide after a good run and cross by Aaron Lennon for Spurs and Baggies keeper Ben Foster had to be alert to race out and clear after Jermain Defoe had raced onto a long ball.

But it was the Baggies who looked the more likely scorers and they should have been in front midway through the first half.

A clever pass from Graham Dorrans

released Long in the box, but the Irishman failed to connect firmly enough with his shot and Hugo Lloris made a smart, low save.

Long was denied again by the Frenchman while Lukaku blazed over from a decent position, although the half ended with Foster pushing Gareth Bale's dipping effort over the crossbar.

A combination of discipline and invention meant things looked promising as the players retired for the interval and Clarke required more of the same after the break. Regrettably, Popov did not get the memo.

With fans still taking their seats for the second period, he battled for the ball then exchanged words with Walker.

Then, inexplicably, the Macedonian appeared to spit in the direction of the Spurs full-back with referee Mark Clattenburg wasting no time in showing an instant red card. That forced Baggies boss Steve Clarke

to sacrifice striker Lukaku in bolstering his backline with Liam Ridgwell and the balance of the game shifted completely.

The visitors ratcheted up the pressure and, with the Baggies dropping deeper by the minute, the dam broke on 67 minutes.

Albion appealed for offside against Lewis Holtby but the flag rightly stayed down, the move continued and Bale evaded the challenge of James Morrison before hammering a left-footed shot into the top corner. There was no way back for the Baggies who, with players out on their feet, never threatened to trouble Lloris in the visitors' goal.

There was still time for Jonas Olsson to lose his head, too, aiming an angry gesture at fans in the Halfords Lane Stand as frustrations boiled over.

It was another moment of madness for Clarke to deal with in a week when the players have done him few favours.



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SPORT

Spitting mad
Red card is one in the eye for Albion
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Stroll on
You can walk the Action Heart run
Page 35

Sports Desk 01902 319461

e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Goal glut is a good return for the ladies

Halesowen Town Ladies 9 Wood Star Rangers Ladies 0

FIVE first-half goals wiped away the rust for Halesowen Town Ladies in their first game for three weeks.

Halesowen now top the Birmingham County Division Two table but also needed the run-out as they approached last night's cup game with Sporting Club Albion, the women's arm of West Bromwich Albion.

They played good passing football in which midfielders Dani Reade and Nicola Jennings put Reade away for the first goal with a fine pass after 10 minutes.

An own goal made it two and Rachel Letford sharply intercepted a back-pass in the 25th minute for 3-0.

Jennings' low drive produced a fourth and although Woodstar created some chances, Charlotte Byatt swept up well.

A final goal of the half saw Sian Whittall neatly finish after Reade's pass.

Halesowen dominated midfield in the second period and Whittall lobbed the keeper after collecting Glover's header forward.

Reade's excellent pass produced a second for Letford – who then completed a hat-trick.

Glover's fierce shot also found the net. Rangers had their moments but keeper Hannah Tromans made some good saves to retain her clean sheet.

Promotion hopes alive

Rugby Ladies 3 Hales Hawks Ladies 4

HALAS HAWKS LADIES kept alive their hopes of promotion from the Birmingham County Women's League Premier Division with this win by the odd goal in seven.

Three goals in as many minutes saw Erin Hickin's strike for Halas sandwiched by scores for the home side.

Halas continued to press and Hickin scored her second before Tracey Haycock gave Halas a 3-2 half-time lead.

Rugby came more into the game after the break but Halas extended their lead with a Katie Monk goal.

Rugby pulled a goal back to make it a nervous last 10 minutes for the visitors, but Halas held on.

More Hawks – Page 35

Two victories cement second place in table

Old Halesonians 3 Sikh Union (Coventry) 0
AFTER a break of nearly three weeks due to snow and ice, Old Halesonians men's hockey firsts returned to action with a win.

The victory, and an away win at Shrewsbury the following day, cemented their position in second place in the Midlands Premier table.

The home side started well, and maintained control of the game throughout. Paul Woodall missed an early chance, but Tom Bulteel soon opened the scoring.

Chances came and went for the home side, but they got a second goal before half-time when Tom Durnford fired the ball past the

Old Halesonians Hockey Club

Sikh Union goalkeeper from a penalty corner. It was Hales' game to lose but they maintained composure during the second half and dominated in attack.

Several quick passing plays led to chances and a third goal seemed inevitable.

It duly came, scored by Bulteel. Sikh Union did manage one shot on target which was cleared off the line by Paul Woodall.

Shrewsbury 1 Old Halesonians 2
Old Hales followed up their good win against Sikh Union with an away success at Shrewsbury. A young and fit home side have

proved to be Old Hales' bogey opponents in the past.

Both teams had chances early on, but neither could capitalise.

An umpiring decision caught Hales unaware when defender Mark Curzon was shown a yellow card. However, following a discussion with the umpires, it appeared there had been a misunderstanding and he was allowed to remain on the pitch.

Hales exploited the wings well and got the breakthrough as the game reached the halfway point. Bulteel's initial shot was

saved, but he controlled the rebound and found the goal at his second attempt.

A spirited Shrewsbury side fired back in the second half, but Hales continued to patient and exploit the gaps that appeared.

A fine team move saw man of the match Chris Hill double the visitors' lead.

Shrewsbury's captain was yellow-carded, but Hales were unable to take advantage of their extra man.

After returning to full strength, Shrewsbury got one back from a scrambled penalty corner. But Hales held out for an important win in front of a bumper crowd.

More hockey – Page 35

Winless run is preying on boss

STEVE CLARKE has revealed his frustration with the international break as he admitted Albion's winless run is playing on his mind.

The Hawthorns head coach admitted he "can't relax" as his team look to end an eight-game search for a win.

Clarke has seen many of his key players leave for international duty until the end of the week, leading to most others getting three days off before reporting back today to prepare for Monday's trip to Liverpool.

"I can't relax as we're in a bad run – we're not winning games," said Clarke, who was assistant to then-Reds boss Kenny Dalglish when the Baggies won 1-0 at Anfield last season with a Peter Odemwingie goal.

Tabbs

"Earlier in the season it was nice and easy. At the moment it's a difficult time for us."

"Unfortunately, instead of having a week or a few days to work with the players before the next game, the vast majority have gone away on international duty."

"We'll be fresh enough and ready for the next game. It's a difficult game."

"But I know, because I was on the opposite side last season, that West Bromwich Albion are capable of going to Anfield and getting a positive result."

Meanwhile, Sevilla have joined a host of clubs keeping tabs Shane Long.

The Spanish side are monitoring the Baggies hitman ahead of a potential summer bid for the 26-year-old. Italian outfit Lazio and Premier League clubs are also watching Long.

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A TOTALLY DIFFERENT WORLD FOR KARGBO

FROM Holland to Halesowen – Passeka Kargbo will have to discover his Dutch courage.

The 17-year-old is learning the nature of English non-league football with the Yeltz, following a pampered development with PSV Eindhoven.

The Northern League First Division South is a world away from potential Eredivisie stardom after he swapped Eindhoven for England. Kargbo played for NAC Breda

before PSV paid to bring him to Eindhoven three years ago and he played in a youth set-up overseen by ex-Holland star Phillip Cocu.

His parents' divorce meant a move to England late last year and, finally, Halesowen Town after six weeks waiting for international clearance and wading through red tape.

And now the forward is learning to be self-sufficient with no-one to clean your boots at The Grove.

Pick

"At the beginning it was hard because I came from a professional club. I wasn't that high, but it was more training, more professional and I mixed it with college," he said.

"After a few weeks I'm getting used to it – with all the homework I have to do. I had to make sense of how to do it all."

"It's different because in Holland in the morning they would pick us up at the station, bring us to school and after that they would pick us up for training and take us back to the station. It was quite a different change because they do everything for you there."

"I'm getting used to being independent."

It's not a move the winger – who lists Thierry Henry and Samuel Eto'o as his

Passeka Kargbo has swapped Dutch total football for the more grounded British set-up at Halesowen Town. Nick Mashiter reports

idols – regrets, though. He left PSV when his parents split and followed his mum to Quinton with brother Lamin and sister Fatima to study at Halesowen College.

It was there he was invited by Andre Whyte, the Yeltz's youth team manager who works at the college, for trials with the club.

"I started playing with the college team and the manager and coach of the college team is the manager of the youth team here and he asked if I wanted to come over," Kargbo said.

He added: "I had a good feeling about Halesowen. I heard they were a bit low in the last few years but that's football."

The Yeltz are now going well following two years of financial problems.

Kargbo, who came off the bench to play against Loughborough Dynamo on Saturday, admits the style is a world away from Dutch total football. "In Holland we don't like to play the long ball and aren't as physical, it's more tactical," he said.



Passeka Kargbo on the ball for Halesowen Town after moving from PSV Eindhoven

Dynamo find Yeltz electric

Loughborough Dynamo 0 Halesowen Town 2

HALESOWEN'S red-hot new year form continued with a comfortable Evo-Stik First Division South win in a game delayed for eight minutes due to an injury to the referee.

The Yeltz are undefeated in 2013, having won their last three games without conceding a goal.

A dull first half saw the home side have the best chance when Shawn Richards drove wide after intercepting a ball from Neil Barnfield.

Halesowen stepped it up after the interval and Ben Haseley slipped past goalkeeper Laurie Pearson only to see his shot stopped on the line by Jake Dale-Brown.

On 55 minutes, there was a break when referee Mark Sutton went off injured and it took a while for a replacement linesman to be found.

Halesowen got their noses in front on the hour. Haseley got down the right and crossed for Jean Michel-Gueyes to steer the ball home from 10 yards.

Loughborough substitute Dom Brennan gave Halesowen a fright when he struck the post from a wide angle on 82 minutes.

But a minute later, Haseley crossed from the right for Mitchell Botfield to turn the ball into the net off the post.



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